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Arms Sales to Iran Denied

Yuriy Kobaladze, chief of the press bureau of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, called the story by the British newspaper THE EUROPEAN that Kazakhstan's President Nazarbayev was behind the sale of two nuclear warheads from Semipalatinsk to Iran "fantastic" and a complete "fabrication," ITAR-TASS reports. Kobaladze noted the Intelligence Service "has no information about a leak of nuclear weapons from CIS countries" and even "guaranteed that no technology leaks or uncontrolled exports of nuclear weapons were possible." The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service has been "closely following" nuclear nonproliferation problems and cited as potential motivation for the report "certain circles" in the West who may be attempting to "convince world public opinion that former USSR republics were not able to control their nuclear potential.

ITAR-TASS reports that Kazakhstan KGB Chairman Bulat Bayekenov has denounced the article as just another hoax. He terms the "hoax" a "disinformation plot by foreign secret services aimed at poisoning relations between Kazakhstan and Russia" and an attempt "to discredit the moderate and realistic policies of President Nursultan Nazarbayev and to provoke speculation on the eve of his visit to the United States."

Kazakhstan To Keep Nuclear Arms

Tokyo TV carries an interview with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazurbayev in which he states, "Kazakhstan would retain strategic nuclear weapons for at least 15 years," since "Russia—which is to accept and destroy the nuclear weapons—is not ready to accept nuclear weapons from Kazakhstan due to financial and technical reasons." Contributing to this decision is the "growing distrust of the Yeltsin administration concerning Russia's moves towards establishing its own army."

Japanese Foreign Minister Visits

ITAR-TASS reports on the visit of Japan's foreign minister, Michio Watanabe to Kazakhstan during which he discussed the status of Kazakhstan's nuclear weapons with Nursultan Nazarbayev. Kazahstan is "'prepared to join the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to seek the complete elimination of nuclear weapons together with other states'", Nazarbayev is reported as saying; but Tokyo KYODO reports that "Nazarbayev showed a negative stance toward joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty" and he wants "Russia, the United States, and China to guarantee the security of Kazakhstan."

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe arrived in Moscow on 2 May for talks with Russian officials on relations, including the disputed Kuril islands issue, reports ITAR-TASS. The first round of talks, held on 3 May between the Japanese foreign minister and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, was devoted to bilateral issues. The second round of talks, held 4 May, were devoted to nuclear safety issues. During these talks, Kozyrev briefed Watanabe on "contacts" with Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine in connection with START ratification. Kozyrev "reaffirmed that Russia continues to insist that Byelarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, at the same time as they ratify START, adopt some kind of legally binding statement that the nuclear weapons on their territories will be destroyed either before the beginning of 1994 or, at the very least, within the 7-year period that START allows for their destruction." Tokyo TV reports that Kozyrev "said it was difficult to control strategic nuclear arms", and that "Kazakhstan is planning to remain a temporary nuclear state—a move which ... Russia opposes."

Tajik Parliamentary Speaker Reinstated

ITAR-TASS reports that at the 3 May Supreme Soviet session, deputies "rescinded" the decision to remove Safarali Kenjayev from his post as speaker. "The news was greeted rapturously" by his supporters in Ozodi Square. They are "now going on to demand the repeal of all the previous session's motions passed under opposition pressure." On the other hand, the opposition in Shakhidon Square viewed the decision "as 'crazy' and responsibility for its consequences was heaped in full on the republic's leadership, including the president."

Official Denies Article on Warheads Sales

LD0205141792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1224 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Peskov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May—Yuriy Kobaladze, chief of the press bureau of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS), has described a recent article in London's "THE EUROPEAN" on the export from the former Soviet Union of nuclear weapon components and production technology as "a multipurpose active measure by Western special services."

The newspaper alleged that Russian intelligence had passed a top secret report to the American CIA which said that three nuclear warheads had disappeared from the nuclear test range at Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, and that two of them were supposedly in Iran and the third was believed to be somewhere in the Near East. At the same time, "THE EUROPEAN" made far-reaching and extensive conclusions that the nuclear weapons had been "sold" by Kazakhstan and that republican President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in an effort to boost his country's hard currency holdings, was "directly" behind the deal.

Commenting on this publication today at the request of an ITAR- TASS correspondent, Yuriy Kobaladze noted that the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service "has no information about a leak of nuclear weapons from CIS countries" and "there has not been and could not be" a report like the one referred to by "THE EUROPEAN." The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, he continued, has been closely following the problem of nuclear nonproliferation for a long time and can see a tendency of certain circles in the West to attempt to convince world public opinion that former USSR republics were not able to control their nuclear potential. The "fantastic" story told by "THE EUROPEAN," Yuriy Kobaladze thinks, is one of them.

The head of the press service of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service noted that the leadership of Russia and the CIS countries had taken clear international obligations to keep strategic weapons under a single command and strict control. They also guaranteed that no technology leaks or uncontrolled exports of nuclear weapons were possible.

Dealing with the political aspect of the "fabrication" carried by the British newspaper, Yuriy Kobaladze noted that its goal was probably to "call into question the reputation and prestige of the Kazakh president," who will soon leave for an official visit to the United States, where the issue of nuclear weapons will no doubt be discussed. He said he thought that another aim was to try to drive a wedge into the emerging relations, based on a businesslike partnership, between Russian intelligence and the intelligence services of the CIS countries. Alma-Ata was the site of a meeting in early April among representatives of the intelligence services of the friendly states. The representatives reached an accord in the Kazakh capital on cooperation and the exchange of information among themselves. The "EUROPEAN" article was designed to arouse suspicions that Russian intelligence was playing a "double game" with its partners. "If Russian intelligence had been aware of the export of nuclear weapons, it would have found ways of dealing with the problem jointly with its colleagues from the CIS countries," Yuriy Kobaladze said. Nevertheless, he did not rule out the possibility of FIS cooperation with the Western special services on this problem.

Yuriy Kobaladze concluded by noting: "Russian foreign intelligence expects its American colleagues to make a similar rebuttal of the 'EUROPEAN' article as it values relations with Kazakhstan, international peace, and tranquillity."

Kozyrev, Baker Discuss START Implementation

LD0305122192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1142 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 3 May (ITAR-TASS)—It is reported by the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department that on 1 and 2 May there were detailed telephone conversations between Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian Federation's foreign minister, and James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state. They discussed a basic framework for bringing the START treaty into operation which would make it possible for the other states in whose territory strategic offensive armaments are located to carry out in an organically interrelated way their obligations to assist in eliminating these armaments no later than during the seven-year term and to accede as soon as possible to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty as nonnuclear countries.

Ukraine, Kazakhstan Want To Withold Weapons

LD0305144592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1331 GMT 3 May 92

[Commentary by Aleksandr (?Sebalev), vice president of the Russian National Security Institute]

[Text] The question of the former Soviet Union's nuclear stockpile was again high on the agenda last week following statements by the presidents of Ukraine and Kazakhstan who said they wanted to hold back the nuclear weapons deployed in their republics.

The latest move runs counter to the initial agreement that the nuclear weapons must be gradually transferred to Russia and unified control retained over the transitional period. The nuclear push-button was to be handled by the Russian president but subject to consultations with the leaders of Ukraine, Byelarus and Kazakhstan.

Not only do Ukraine and Kazakhstan now want to hold back to the nuclear weapons but they claim for a special nuclear status as well on the ground of alleged threat from Russia.

Mr. (?Sebalev) says that even the hint of such a possibility would have alerted the international community. In his view, the status of a nuclear power as conceived by leaders of Ukraine and Kazakhstan can help raise their countries' international standing and receive a more generous Western aid. (?Sebalev), however, believes that Russia's protracted silence can be interpreted nothing short of a go-ahead to the sharing out of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal. He said that although Moscow was in the face of a hard dilemma, further delay was unacceptable and that Russia must step in to take on its own share of responsibility.

Safe Method of Keeping Nuclear Waste Developed

LD0205011192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This enterprise has been producing weapons-grade plutonium, a stuffing for atomic bombs and rockets, for over 40 years. Approximately 1 billion Curie units of waste of various levels of radioactivity have accumulated in metallic tanks and open reservoirs over this time. And only now has it become possible to resolve the problem of the safekeeping of radionuclides. This problem is one of the most complicated and topical problems in atomic power engineering.

Technology and equipment were jointly constructed by specialists of the Mayak chemical combine and Yekaterinburg scientists. The process of neutralizing nuclear waste is already carried out on an industrial scale today. Radioactive concentrate is boiled together with glass in a special stove at a temperature of over 1,000 degrees. Then this viscous mass is poured into reliable steel containers that are placed in a storehouse made out of monolithic concrete. After this nothing—neither water, nor natural calamities—will let this atomic genie out of the bottle. In the opinion of specialists of a number of countries who visited this place, the method of vitrifying nuclear waste is the most reliable and the cheapest for the time being, compared to other methods known in the world.

Fifty million Curie units, left as a heritage from defense production, have already been made safe. By the way, the radioactive emission due to the accident at the Chernobyl station reached this level of 50 million Curie units. [video shows an enterprise, various types of equipment, including special stoves, containers and pipes]

Atomic Plant Directors Appeal to Presidents

AU0105155992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] A council of the Ukratomenergoprom Concern has ended its work in Enerhodar (Zaporizhzhya). Directors of all atomic plants of Ukraine took part in its work. In addition to resolving specific practical issues, the council adopted an appeal to presidents of Ukraine and Russia with a demand to resolve the problems of nuclear power engineering of the two independent states at a political level.

Power Station Heads Meet To Dispel Tension

LD0105173392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent Denis Gurinskiy on an all-Russian conference of directors of nuclear power stations and the authorities of satellite towns around those stations, held in Sosnovyy Bor in Leningradskaya Oblast; date not given]

[Text] This was the first joint conference held on such a scale by directors of Russian nuclear power stations and leaders of the towns near which they are based. The aim of the conference, called under the auspices of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry and the management of the Leningrad nuclear power station, was to dispel the tension that has arisen between nuclear power engineers and local authorities.

At the conference, representatives of the nuclear power stations voiced concern that since a series of accidents at Russian nuclear power stations, local authorities are putting them under ever greater financial and legal pressure to cut back the stations' operations.

In particular, they pointed out that the authorities have recently been demanding that the stations pay higher taxes to the local authorities, while reducing subsidies for social and economic aid programs for nuclear power station personnel. In the opinion of the directors of Russia's nuclear power stations, the only way to deal with these problems is to adopt a law on nuclear power engineering covering the whole of Russia.

On the other hand, the officials of local administrations and soviets attending the conference spoke of their dissatisfaction with the stance taken by the management of the nuclear power stations, who they accused of systematically violating the ecological safety rules of the nearby territory and even refuse afterwards to help the local authorities clear up their discharges. According to the heads of the local authorities, the nuclear power stations in their towns regard themselves as something approaching a state within a state, and this provokes the local population to demand that the authorities take a tougher line in their dealings with the nuclear power engineers.

However, despite these polarized views, the conference did not block a decision to set up a union of nuclear power engineering towns of Russia [Soyuz Gorodov Atomnoy Energetiki Rossii]. The union brings together the managers of 11 nuclear power stations and local authority representatives from over 20 towns in Russia to work jointly on drawing up a bill covering nuclear

power engineering in Russia, and to consult each other regularly on all aspects of the operations of nuclear power stations.

Committee Eyes Chemical Weapons Destruction

LD0205210892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The Soviet-American agreement demands that Russia should begin to destroy stocks of its chemical weapons no later than 31 December. A first practical step to this end has been taken by the forming of a special committee on chemical and biological weapons under the chairmanship of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This is what its chairman, Academician Anatoliy Kuntsevich told our correspondent:

[Kuntsevich, in Russian fading into English translation] The committee's major task is to liquidate arsenals of chemical weapons. On a practical level this task is linked with the creating of both a material and a technical base for this work. Neither the former Soviet Union nor Russia have ever had a strategy towards destroying such weapons, therefore no legal means have been adopted and no funds allocated to this end. In addition, the key difficulty that remains outstanding is that of a site for building the facilities that are needed for the destruction of 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes of chemical weapons.

It's hard to make forecasts about the timescale to complete this work but Russia may need some 10 to 15 years. It hopes Western partners will understand since they too encounter certain difficulties. The United States, for one, intended to complete the destruction of chemical weapons this year, but now the year of 2005 has been set as the deadline.

Russia counts not only on an understanding, it counts on help too. No matter how reliable our technological programs may be there are problems with the individual elements of such an undertaking. But what is most important is to get funds for solving the many social and other problems in the regions where these facilities for destroying poisonous chemical substances will be built and how to overcome the natural reluctance and suspicion surrounding them on the part of the local population. The United States might allocate to this end some $100 million at present. In addition, it will be useful if European countries would take part in the process too.

'No Proven Technology' for Chemical Disposal

LD0105183692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 1 May 92

[Video report from Saratov by correspondent I. Deryugin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Behind me are the gates of the central chemical depot of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. This depot stores, among other things, 1,200 tonnes of poisonous substances. There are barrels containing mustard gas and lewisite which has been stored since World War II. These are dermatovesical poisons.

The destruction of chemical weapons in accordance with the treaty concluded with the Americans should start by the end of this year. At the present time there is no proven technology to carry out this destruction which completely satisfies both ecologists and the military. Should the chemicals be transported elsewhere, or should a factory be constructed to process them here? No decision is possible without independent expert ecological supervision of whichever method might be used. And should this issue be favorably settled, then the region would have to share in the profits, which could be considerable. A kilogram of arsenic, which can be obtained by processing lewisite is worth $5,000 on the world market. We just need to ensure that these arsenic dollars are clean, in both the literal and a metaphorical sense.

CSCE Participants Discuss Bosnia, Karabakh

LD0205090892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1734 GMT 1 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Prisyazhnyy]

[Excerpts] Helsinki, 1 May—The participants in a meeting of the CSCE committee of senior officials, which is being held in the Finnish capital and is discussing the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, appealed to all opposing sides to renounce the use of violence and observe the truce. [passage omitted]

Today the committee of senior officials also began to discuss the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the organization of an international conference on Karabakh problems. They agreed that the problem would be discussed in mid-May. At the suggestion of the Russian delegation, the conflict in the Dniester region was also included on the agenda for today's meeting. As emphasized by the Russian delegation's spokesman, the situation there is so serious that the CSCE should, to some extent, be included in the search for a political solution in the region. A detailed and thorough discussion of the issue, however, was made difficult by the absence of the representatives from Moldova.

The committee of senior officials will continue its intensive work behind closed doors tonight. The meeting is expected to conclude by morning.

Observers To Go to Karabakh

LD0205112692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Prisyazhniy]

[Text] Helsinki May 2 TASS—The CSCE senior executives committee has decided to send to Nagorno-Karabakh observers of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The committee's session, which is under way here, decided that CSCE observers would go to the conflict zone immediately after a stable armistice is established there, and in case all the warring parties agree to cooperate with CSCE envoys.

Control over the fulfillment of armistice terms will be the main task of the observers. All expenditures on this peacemaking mission will be paid by the countries participating in the Helsinki process. The committee believes the group of observers should be led by a person with extensive peacemaking experience. Decisions on other matters dealing with the sending of observers, including the composition of the group, the area of its actions and the time it will stay there, will be taken later by a special working group, due to meet in Helsinki.

The CSCE committee also decided to invite representatives of the United Nations Organisation and the International Red Cross Society to attend an international peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh as observers. The conference will be attended by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelarus, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United States, Turkey, France, Czechoslovakia and Sweden. As was reported earlier, it will be held in Minsk, capital of Byelarus. The date of the conference has not yet been set.

Delegation Seeks Information on Dead in DPRK

PM0105092592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Humane Mission"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 29 Apr—A delegation from the High Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces is carrying out a noble and humane mission in the DPRK. It spent a week in North Korea gathering and classifying all information relating to Soviet servicemen who died on that country's territory.

The delegation was received by Vice Marshal O Chin-u, minister of the DPRK People's Armed Forces.

Outflow of Conventional Weapons Discussed

LD0305110992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 2 May 92

[Report by correspondent M. Polyakov; from the "Plus 11" program]

[Text] A decree that is not subject to discussion or appeal and that is virtually in the form of a strict order has put an end to the uncontrolled sale of Russian arms. The presidential decree signed by Boris Yeltsin permits the sale abroad of 1,600 military aircraft. Foreign optimists are pleased: The gigantic arsenals of the Army are under the control of the occupant of the Kremlin who is trusted in the West.

At the same time, with a single stroke of the pen, the president of Russia, without any supervision from the legislature, has thrown on the world market enough aircraft to equip an air force three times as large as France's. The income from the sales will be tax free and will be used to build housing for Air Force personnel, to raise their pay, and to finance priority programs for the Air Force.

The Navy is not just standing by either. Uruguay has submitted a request for five minesweepers to strengthen its coastal defense. Georgia, acting on its own, has announced that it is prepared to export Su-25 fighter-bombers built at a plant in the suburbs of Tbilisi. In order to reduce its deficit of 8 billion rubles, Kazakhstan, the former favorite of the Soviet military industry, plans to offer its conventional weapons on the world market without Moscow's acting as an intermediary.

A plan proposed by the head of the administration of Omsk Oblast envisages the sale of a batch of 1,000 old 1960-model T-55 tanks at scrap metal prices. A large number of these tanks can, however, still be seen on the

battlefields of Third World countries and in the reserves of the former Warsaw Pact countries. Some Western experts believe that these tanks, which have been priced at $10,000 per tonne [as heard], will help someone create a large tank army at a more than reasonable price.

Fans of the most modern equipment will not remain empty-handed, either. They can always acquire T-72 tanks at $350,000 each or modern T-81's [as heard] which are a bit more expensive.

According to Western assessments, in 1991 the arms trade gold mine brought the former USSR about $12 billion. According to forecasts by Mikhail Bazhanov, chairman of the State Committee for Conversion Matters, in 1992 it will amount to at least $10 billion.

By the way, this trade is carried on not only at the state level. Every week hundreds of firearms, armored vehicles, and artillery pieces flow from arsenals into the hands of militants in the Transcaucasus and Moldova. Commenting on this situation, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS conventional Armed Forces, said:

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] Yes, such cases do occur. Some criminal cases are presently under way. Some directives have been issued and so on. But these things are happening because when they are seen to go unpunished they, of course, give rise to problems. So, we intend to increase punishment and, of course, to legalize the stay of the troops on the territory of these states, to define their status, and so on. [end recording]

The dynamics of the events, however, convinces one that the Russian president and the command of the CIS conventional forces are unlikely in the near future to limit and reliably control this gold mine of the local arms trade.

Report Forecasts Prospects for Oil Production

LD0205054692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0529 GMT 2 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Voskoboinikov]

[Text] London May 2 TASS—Oil production in the former Union republics will probably be reduced from 515 million tons in 1991 to 460-470 million tons [as received] in 1995. This forecast is contained in the report prepared by the London-based Centre of Global Energy Studies.

According to the report, this may not happen under favourable circumstances, i.e. the encouragement of production, effective management and adequate investments. Oil production may even grow to reach the level of 530-550 million tons a year. The continuing decline and a slow transition to a more rational energy consumption will probably reduce oil demand in the former Union republics, but this process may be restricted as a result of difficulties in other industries linked with energy generation, specifically, coal production and nuclear power engineering. As a result of it, oil demand is expected to stand at 420 to 470 million tons in the CIS republics by 1995.

Under the worst possible circumstances—if the trends of the past three years are not reversed in the CIS member states—they may stop oil exports altogether by 1993. On the contrary, they may start importing oil to the region. In the optimal situation, however, oil production may grow there, and reach the level of 550 million tons a year by 1995. Oil exports may reach about 145 million tons. According to the Centre of Global Energy Studies, real figures will, most probably, be somewhere between those two extremes, and CIS oil exports will remain almost on the current level.

Commonwealth

General Comments on Defense Minister's Meeting

LD3004193992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—Authorized representatives of the Defense Ministries of the Commonwealth countries met in Moscow to approve 17 draft agreements to be considered by the Tashkent summit soon. The agreements fall into two packages: The first one consists of 7 documents, which are expected to be discussed by the heads of Commonwealth states on May 15, while the second package will be considered on the same day by the heads of government.

Lieutenant-General Leonid Ivashov, chief of the Management Directorate of the CIS United Armed Forces told ITAR-TASS that the experts had considered the draft proposals concerning the former Soviet Union's international commitments in the disarmament sphere: the principles and procedure of fulfilling the START treaties, as well as treaties on conventional arms in Europe and chemical weapons. All these treaties are within the competence of the heads of state. The meeting in Moscow succeeded in reaching an accord on conventional arms and chemical weapons. The stumbling block was connected with strategic offensive weapons and their levels in the four nuclear countries of the Commonwealth—Russia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Their meeting adopted a draft statement on conventional armed forces but work has yet to be finalized: The protocols and supplements dealing with the quotas of each Commonwealth member-countries have yet to be supplied with figures.

The meeting made a considerable headway in discussing the draft agreement on chemical weapons. This document signed by the leaders of the military delegations acknowledges the fact that all chemical weapon storage and production capacities are located on Russian territory and Russia will undertake the fulfillment of commitments under the Geneva protocol of June 17, 1925. All the Commonwealth member-countries will abide by the decision on terminating the production of chemical weapons which was announced by the former Soviet Union in 1987. Russia will undertake to destroy these weapons, while the other Commonwealth member-countries will take part in joint financing of the event.

While discussing the size and procedure of transferring set contributions to the single defense budget, none of the delegations refused to finance the upkeep of the Joint Armed Forces, although their approaches were not identical. Ukraine confirmed its desire to finance only those units which are deployed on its territory. Uzbekistan sided with Ukraine. Azerbaijan agrees to pay the upkeep of the strategic force units located on its territory. Other participants in the meeting, particularly Russia, disagree with this approach because in addition to troops deployed on national territories there exist systems designed to ensure collective security. These systems include the space weapons and the military intelligence service, as well as a research institutions.

The sides also reached an agreement on the text of the statement but the size of contributions has yet to be finalized. Along with this, some delegations, including the Kazakh and Kyrgyz, announced that they are ready to contribute specified amounts of money to the CIS defense budget. It was decided to continue the discussion of the problem at the level of the heads of government.

Summarizing the results of the two days of work, General Ivashov said that he had taken part in meetings of this kind for the sixth time and could not but note that a specific headway had been made in bringing closer the positions and approaches of the sides. While earlier the talks were mainly motivated by mutual claims, now they are dominated by the constructive spirit and readiness to look for compromise solutions.

Further on Division of USSR State Property

LD0105202192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1148 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The meeting of the CIS Heads of State planned for May 15 is expected to consider the draft agreement on the legal succession of public property on the territory of the former USSR. The draft being elaborated by expert groups of the CIS member-states that held the Alma-Ata meeting on April 28-29 has been revised by the representatives of all the CIS states except Moldova, Azerbaijan and Armenia, PF [POSTFACTUM] was told in the state committee on property of Kazakhstan Republic.

In accordance with the draft, buildings, installations, equipment, chattels, shares and other assets and valuables which were on the accounts and balance sheets of the ministries and departments of the former USSR become the property of the member-states as agreed by the sides. Buildings and installations that have historical, architectural, cultural and national value, as well as those that were built before the formation of the USSR are not subject to division.

The experts decided that a specially set up commission will, during three months, take stock and evaluate the whole property and determine the share of each member-state. Each signatory to the agreement will have the right to physically own its share or to the respective compensation. Separate agreements are expected to be signed on the division of the property and financial resources of the former CPSU Central Committee Business Management Directorate as well as the property of the Armed Forces, frontier, interior and railway troops of the former USSR.

During the meeting, the Russian, Ukrainian and Byelarusian delegations expressed divergent opinions. The representatives of Russia said there was no point in dividing monetary assets as there has long been no money on the accounts of the union ministries and departments, while the money that was on the accounts of the finance ministry has been used for social and other purposes. Ukraine said the signatories should be paid compensation for the buildings that, due to their historical or cultural value, are not subject to division. The Byelarusian representatives insisted on the question on the legal succession of the sea transport, nuclear industry and space research units to be included in the draft agreement. According to the Byelarus experts, this property was created by the joint effort of all the member-states and their interests should not be infringed upon owing to their geographical or geopolitical position. During the meeting the experts also came to the conclusion about the need to draw an agreement on regulating property rights, set up a working group to coordinate questions concerning property government, denationalization and privatization. They also found it expedient that a unified exchange information space be formed.

Russia, Ukraine, Byelarus Sign Agreement

LD0205023792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] At the beginning of this week, representatives of 10 adjacent Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelarussian oblasts concluded an agreement in Chernigov on the main directions of cooperation under the conditions of the transition to market relations. It speaks of the necessity of preserving a unified economic space in which the horizontal ties between the regions and the producers of output become the main element.

The participants in the Chernigov agreement said they also firmly intended to develop cooperation in the sphere of science, culture, and public health, and in eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

The representatives of the 10 oblasts sent a letter to the heads of states and governments of Russia, Ukraine, and Byelarus which says that the process of the sovereignization of the republics should not lead to estrangement and confrontation between peoples.

Republics Sign Agreements on Fighting Terrorism

LD0305143692 Riga Radio Riga International in English 1730 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] The Latvian Interior Ministry has signed bilateral agreements with the Interior Ministries of Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Armenia, which provide for cooperation in investigating certain criminal cases, searching for persons wanted by the law, combating terrorism as well as for mutual assistance in other areas.

The agreements were signed by the Minister for the Interior Ziedonis Cevers during a meeting in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata.

Previously the Baltic interior ministers had announced they would not sign a common agreement with the CIS interior ministries, instead seeking cooperation possibilities with each state separately by signing bilateral agreements. To date Latvia already has similar agreements with Byelarusian and Moldovan interior bodies while the signing of a similar accord with the Russian Interior Ministry is currently being negotiated.

Roundup of May Day Celebrations

LD0105135892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1212 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 1 May (ITAR-TASS)—May Day was marked in various ways today in Russia and the other republics of the former USSR which are now independent states. Pro-communist parties and organizations, as well as many trade unions organized processions, rallies, and demonstrations in keeping with the traditions of the Day of International Solidarity of the Working People. Yet most ordinary, unpoliticized people found the new name that has been suggested for it more to their liking: The Festival of Spring and Labor.

The celebration of May Day in the capital began with a rally of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions. Trade union leaders staged their event by the main entrance to the Gorkiy Central Park of Culture and Rest under slogans calling for the protection of a person's right to work and the provision of economic and social guarantees for the working people.

Representatives of pro-communist movements marched beneath red banners through the center of Moscow to Red Square. Viktor Anpilov, leader of the Working Moscow Movement, opened a rally there with greetings "to the working people of the whole world". He also put forward a proposal that signatures should be collected today to back the call for a referendum the purpose of which would be, as he put it, "the early resignation of President Boris Yeltsin and the removal from office of Gavriil Popov, the mayor of Moscow, and his prosecution".

At the same time, Manezh Square, which is located close by, was filled with children, and a grand theatrical performance was staged there for them. Its highlight was the dramatic landing of a helicopter by which popular cartoon characters arrived to greet the assembled children. The colorful show was organized for the young Muscovites by the city's Committee for Culture, Russia's Union of Theatrical Personnel, and ITAR-TASS.

On the whole such a combination of the traditional old and the new with respect to 1 May was typical also of other cities in Russia and the CIS states. To judge by the reports from the regions, the overwhelming majority of the the May Day demonstrations under red banners were not notable for their mass character. In some of the

former republics of the former Union—in Lithuania, Georgia, and Moldova, for example—this day was like a week day: Businesslike. As ITAR-TASS reported from Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, "the local media do not even mention the celebration of workers' solidarity in other countries."

A holidaymaker hurrying to catch an electric train out to the country explained the passive attitude of many people to the politicized 1 May meetings that the trade unions pressed them to join. In answer to a question from our correspondent why he preferred to spend this day not in the columns of demonstrators but on his own plot of land, the latter replied: "It is common knowledge that a spring day provides for the winter. People are tired of going to rallies, and idle talk will bring no bread."

Trade Unions Observe May Day

LD0105220392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 1 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 1 TASS—Many trade unions in CIS states today marked the 1st of May as a working people solidarity holiday.

Trade union activists from St. Petersburg and the St. Petersburg region categorically rejected the Russian Supreme Soviet's intention to rename the first of May into a "holiday of spring and labor", accusing deputies of "incompetence and lack of knowledge of the working people movement".

The activists recalled the essence of the day of international solidarity of working people, marked since 1889 on the initiative of the Paris Workers' Congress, lays not in "pompous celebrations, but in understanding of the need for joint struggle".

The St. Petersburg Federation of Trade Unions called on labor collectives to mark the 1st of May with decisive actions in defence of working people's interests.

Moscow trade unions gathered thousands of city residents for a rally in Gorkiy Park to demand that the Russian Government orient its course towards "social market economy". They also call for "privatization under working people's control", "a barrier to the increase of unemployment" and "world labor prices against the background of world fuel prices".

Representatives of pro-communist movements, including the Working Russia, the Working Moscow, the Unity, the United Working People's Front and the Communist Union, marches towards Moscow's Red Square, in an over one-kilometer-long column.

The Working Russia organized a rally in Novosibirsk, southern Siberia, to call for unity of patriotic forces and international solidarity of working people. The rally, that attracted a limited number of people, also sharply criticized the current domestic policy, leading to "poverty, devastation, disintegration and sales of Russia". The majority of Novosibirsk residents went to their dachas, instead of attending the rally.

Rallies were held in the majority CIS states, according to preliminary information.

The day was marked with not only political arrangements, but also with concerts, fireworks and various shows, said Deputy Chairman of the World Confederation of Trade Unions Vladimir Kuzmenok.

Trade unions of Russia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan and some other former Soviet republics consider the 1st of May to be both a political arrangement and a spring holiday. As for Kyrgyzstan, local trade unions held only labor collectives' rallies. Same is the situation in Moldova.

Military

Shaposhnikov Urges Definition of Army's Status

MK0205101192 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 18, 3 May 92 (signed to Press 28 Apr 92) p 5

[Article by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov under the "Within Me" rubric: "Tanks Are Not Worth Tears"]

[Text] I was an advocate of unified Armed Forces from the very outset, irrespective of the form of existence of the USSR or our states—whether a federation or a confederation. This idea was also supported by the president of Russia. Yet, people nevertheless began creating their own armed forces and defense ministries—in Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Uzbekistan.... It became clear that it was no longer going to be possible to cling to the old system.

At that time, the idea of a Joint Armed Forces was born, providing the right to existence both for the formations of the various CIS states and to forces of differing specifications under a single authority.

And so, today I support the adoption by Russia of the decision to create its own Army and defense ministry. It was no longer possible to delay this matter any further. But if Russia had been the first to take this step, then the consequences for the Commonwealth would have been graver.

Russia has taken under its jurisdiction the Western, Northern, and Northwestern Groups of Forces, the troops stationed on the territory of Transcaucasia, the Caspian Flotilla, and the 14th Army in Moldova. All this has been legitimated. But in all instances, I have one overriding anguish: I believe that no ship, no dozen tanks, or aircraft are worth human tears—blood even less so. We must resolve all the social problems facing servicemen above all else. I have constantly insisted on a transitional period—approximately 2-3 years—in order, say, to resettle in Russia, from Ukraine, officers who do

not wish to serve there, and vice versa; and to handle the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic region in accordance with world practice and international law. We are constantly trying to solve these questions—and at the highest level, too—and I am doing my utmost to achieve at least something.

The government structures do not always—nor in their entirety—meet us halfway. It is good that Russia has taken a part of the troops under its jurisdiction, but it is essential to define the status of these formations. What does jurisdiction mean? It means that these troops temporarily find themselves on the territory of a sovereign state, do not intervene in its internal affairs, guarantee its external security, and tackle the liquidation of the consequences of natural disasters. But the sovereign state too also must fulfill its obligations to them. The army cannot be left in a state of "suspension" as in Transcaucasia, for example; that leads to its degeneration. Constant attacks, thefts of weapons.... We have all the decrees—what to do in the event of the seizure of weapons, how to find them and destroy them if they are not returned. But life is life. People come up to an officer and say: "We know your wife and your son, if you resist they will suffer." In a word, we can resolve nothing without defining their status.

We should not stir each other up or inflame tension because somewhere some quantity of tanks or aircraft turns up, for example, not in Russia but in Moldova. For when all is said and done this is all just "iron." Essentially, each CIS state has a right to it—we have lived together for decades, and it is very difficult to sort out who has put how much into the army. And we must not be infected by nationalism, including in relation to the division of the Black Sea Fleet and in other such instances.

It is disgusting and repulsive when in the Baltic region somebody seizes Colonel Chernykh and handcuffs him. The antitank obstacles have still not been removed from around the parliament building in Vilnius. Why? They are demanding the immediate withdrawal of the troops before the end of 1992, they want to raise the question of a referendum. But we are talking about people here, and those who are today serving in the Baltic region are not guilty of this fact. They cannot be flicked away like dust from a table—there, everything is "clean." If they call themselves civilized people, then let everything be resolved in a civilized manner.

How were we educated in the pre-August period? New sovereign states and new presidents appeared, and people said to us: "These are all nasty incomprehensible people, they are leading us in the wrong direction." And those people who were disinclined to think for themselves and analyze the situation adopted just such a position. This also manifested itself at the All-Army Officers' Assembly when some participants demanded that the presidents be given an ultimatum. But excuse me—they were elected by the people. By presenting an ultimatum to the presidents we would be presenting it also to the people, whom we are pledged to defend.

When I am on my own I ask myself the following question: To whom should I subordinate myself? There are 11 presidents in the CIS. Kravchuk has twice intended to relieve me of my post, Yeltsin and Nazarbayev offer unwavering support... And I answer: to my conscience and to common sense, which in fact is the defense both of my Fatherland and of the army subordinated to me.

Assembly Chairman Interviewed on Army Cuts

PM3004102992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Captain 1st Rank Aleksandr Mochaykin, chairman of the Coordinating Council of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Officers' Assemblies, by Lieutenant Colonel V. Zyubin; place and date not given: "People Are Not Pawns That Can Easily Be Switched Around"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zyubin] Our newspaper reported that it is planned to hold an All-Army Officers' Assembly in May...

[Mochaykin] A cable to this effect signed by the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces has already been dispatched to the troops. The meeting of representatives of Joint Armed Forces Officers' Assemblies is to be held in Moscow in late May to early June. We are also inviting representatives of Officers' Assemblies from Byelarus, Ukraine, and all other independent states of the former Union to attend it.

It is planned to discuss a number of important issues at the meeting and adopt the new Officers' Assemblies statutes, which will impart scope to the work of this democratic organ. In our opinion, it is necessary to invest Officers' Assemblies with greater rights in resolving cadre questions. At present, during the reduction of the Armed Forces, the cadre question is becoming a particularly acute and sensitive issue. In order to rule out unhealthy discussions about specific appointments, it is necessary to add more glasnost to cadre work and make it more democratic.

One of the key questions to be discussed at the meeting will be the question of the CIS states' military policy and the formation of the Russian Army and Navy. As you know, a state commission is is currently working on this question.

[Zyubin] Does this commission include a member of the Coordinating Council?

[Mochaykin] Not officially, for the time being. However, I am grateful to Dmitriy Antonovich Volkonogov for having invited me to literally all the commission's meetings. I am trying to play an active part in its work.

[Zyubin] Aleksandr Gennadyevich, in your statements you have emphasized more than once that it is necessary to make every effort to ensure that during the cuts not a single officer is discharged without being provided with some sort of social guarantees. These are fine words, but are they realistic? After all, 600,000 is an enormous figure...

[Mochaykin] No, these are not merely "fine" words. If we tackle this problem in the old way, merely trying to patch the gaps, nothing will come of it, of course. Fundamentally new approaches are needed. For example, why shouldn't we form officer regiments now? Why should we not staff a tank regiment with officers, for example? We would be resolving several problems at once, in this way. We would be getting a truly professional combat unit, and preserving young officers for the future army. Even from the economic and moral viewpoints this would be more advantageous. It will cost much more to retrain and resettle reserve officers.

Those who will lose their jobs must not be thrown out onto the streets, so to speak. This would be not just unethical, it would also adversely affect the army's future. What young people would want to link their life with the army after that? Winding up the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, dwelling on economic issues, said that we must look ahead and, in dealing with current problems, we must not undermine the roots of future growth. The same course of action must also be followed as regards the future of the army and the navy.

[Zyubin] In your opinion, when the Russian Armed Forces are formed, will there also be a Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies?

[Mochaykin] Time will tell. For the time being we are prepared to assume these functions. Incidentally, this would be in line with objective reality. After all, most of the Officers' Assemblies currently attached to our council will form the backbone of Russia's Armed Forces.

Council To Work in Russian Army

PM2804151192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report under the "One-Line Telegraph" rubric: "Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies Needed by the Russian Army Too"]

[Text] The Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies will be preserved and will continue its work within Russian Army and Navy structures. This was stated during an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Captain First Rank Aleksandr Mochaykin, chairman of the Coordinating Council. He noted that even though Coordinating Council representatives were not included in the State Commission on the Creation of the Russian Defense Ministry, Army, and Navy, they are participating in the sessions. There is a chance that the Coordinating Council will also be maintained at Commonwealth level.

Media

Media Chiefs Discuss Single Information Space

LD2904175292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1425 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By BELTA correspondent Aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 29 Apr—Whether or not a single news and information space will be preserved within the CIS—this was the main issue at the meeting of leaders of television and radio companies and services of Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine in Minsk today.

As Aleksandr Stolyarov, chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio, told a BELTA correspondent, today's meeting was to prepare for the Alma-Ata meeting of leaders of the information departments of the republics of the former Union. A Kazakh initiative to set up a single interstate news and information channel on the basis of television's First Channel was approved by all of the participants in today's meeting.

The final decision will be made by those taking part in the Alma-Ata meeting.

International Affairs

Japanese Foreign Minister Begins Visit, Talks

Kunadze Previews Visit

PM0105091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Unnamed ITAR-TASS correspondent report: "Russia's Position on Kuril Islands Problem Remains Unchanged"]

[Text] "Russia's principled position on the question of the southern Kuril islands remains unchanged. It consists in a firm intention to resolve the territorial problem within the framework of a process of negotiation, on the basis of legality and justice," Georgiy Kunadze, Russian deputy minister of foreign affairs, stated in an interview today with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "There are no changes in this approach by the Russian side, nor are any envisaged."

The official visit to Moscow by Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe begins 2 May. Its main purpose is to prepare Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the Land of the Rising Sun, planned for September of this year. However, it is expected that the dialogue on the problem of territorial demarcation will be continued at the talks in the Russian capital. According to G. Kunadze, the Russian side intends to expedite the resolution of this key question in relations with Japan and is not going to drag it out.

On the eve of Michio Watanabe's visit, a number of organs of the Japanese mass media have repeatedly cited the latest statements by representatives of the country's Foreign Ministry envisaging that Japan be deemed to have sovereignty over the islands. According to the Russian diplomat, "this is the linchpin of the problem." Gennadiy Kunadze considers that there is a need for a legal discussion about what to consider a resolution of the problem—the reaching of an accord, or the implementation of this accord. In his opinion, it would be much more logical to believe that the question is resolved when an accord has been reached. If you view the problem in this way, the Japanese side's demands for immediate recognition of its sovereignty over the islands seem to be a complete and final resolution of the problem of territorial demarcation, no less. "As for us, we consider," G. Kunadze emphasized, "that this is actually a question for the negotiating process."

Speaking of the shifts in resolving the problem, the deputy minister emphasized the positive changes on the Japanese side lately. "It cannot be said that we are satisfied with all the recent proposals, but it is necessary to make a positive assessment of the fact that for the first time in all these years Japan's approach to the territorial problem is nevertheless beginning to change." Tokyo's recently expressed readiness to resolve all contentious issues in a flexible manner and in stages is confirmation of this.

Georgiy Kunadze denied the reports by several organs of the Japanese mass media alleging that Russia is refusing to recognize the joint Japanese-Russian declaration of 1956. Russia, as the successor to the USSR, G. Kunadze pointed out, has recognized all its international obligations, including the 1956 declaration. By virtue of its status as successor the Russian side is unable to be selective in its approach to the former obligations of the USSR. However, the deputy minister added, the question is not what to recognize and how, but how to expedite the resolution of all contentious questions.

Regarding prospects of signing a peace treaty between Russia and Japan, the Russian diplomat admitted that only a resolution of the territorial problem can bring closer the time of this document's adoption. Nobody has any illusions about the possibility of signing a treaty without a solution of this problem, he said in conclusion.

Watanabe Arrives in Moscow

LD0205170392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 2 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe arrived in Moscow this evening, having ended his tour of a number of CIS countries with a visit to Alma-Ata. The head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry will have a fairly heavy schedule during his three-day stay in the Russian capital. He is to have meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, and two rounds of talks with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

1st Round of Talks Begins

LD0305124892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow May 3 TASS—The first round of Russian-Japanese talks have begun in the Russian Foreign Ministry today. The delegations at the talks are headed by Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev and his Japanese counterpart, Michio Watanabe, who had arrived here on Saturday [2 May] night for an official visit.

The two sides will discuss a wide range of matters concerning bilateral relations, including the course of the preparation of a peace treaty, and a number of international problems, and will exchange opinions on prospects for the development of Russian-Japanese trade and economic contacts.

When greeting Michio Watanabe, Andrey Kozyrev said this meeting "is an important stage in the development of bilateral relations". He emphasised that the Moscow dialogue should become "an important preparatory

phase of President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan". The visit is scheduled for the beginning of autumn.

"Despite the fact that on one of [the] issues—the territorial one—the sides so far continue to adhere to incompatible positions inherited from the past approaches to it by the Soviet Union and Japan, we have an extensive agenda for joint work," Kozyrev said.

The second round of the talks is scheduled for Monday [4 May].

No 'Breakthrough' on Islands

LD0305204792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1510 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 3 May (TASS)—Problems of developing relations between Russia and Japan were today in the center of attention of the two countries' foreign ministers during the first round of talks in the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Galina Sidorova, adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the ITAR- TASS correspondents that although there was no principal breakthough in the "territorial question," which is one of the crucial ones, has been achieved, both sides demonstrated their desire to insure progress "in all the spectrum of bilateral Russian-Japanese relations."

Galina Sidorova quoted Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe as saying that Russia and Japan are no longer in a state of confrontation and there is hope to "get bilateral relations out of their predicament." At the same time the Japanese foreign minister emphasized, however, that Tokyo still subscribes to the principle that politics and economics are inseparable. But in view of Russia's and other CIS countries' difficult situation, Japan has provided them economic assistance and aid and will provide it to them in the future.

According to Galina Sidorova, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stressed that Russia and Japan are not in confrontation any more and they intend to tackle the complicated issues facing them in the spirit of confidence, on a basis of legality and justice.

The preliminary program of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan and also some other questions of economic and political relations of the two countries were also discussed in the course of the negotiations, the minister's adviser said.

The ministers intend to dedicate the second round of the negotiations planned for tomorrow primarily to the exchange of views on international and regional problems.

Watanable Surprised on Loans Stance

OW0305155292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 3 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian and Japanese foreign ministers failed to find a mutually acceptable solution to the territorial issue at their negotiations which have finished in Moscow today (May 3). However, as a Russian Foreign Ministry official has told our correspondent, the negotiations were held in a "friendly and informal" atmosphere.

The same representative said that Japan and Russia are drafting several agreements which are to be signed during Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan scheduled for September. Among them are agreements on the prevention of incidents in the sea, and on cooperation in space research. Soon Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is expected to visit Moscow again to continue bilateral consultations.

The Russian diplomat said that during his Sunday [3 May] talks with the Russian foreign minister, Michio Watanabe "expressed surprise" that to this day Moscow has not shown any interest in two loans worth 100 million and 500 million dollars which Tokyo was ready to extend to the former Soviet Union.

Space Cooperation Discussed

OW0305143592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 3 May 92

[Excerpts] Moscow, May 3 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe made little progress Sunday [3 May] in talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev on the two countries' territorial dispute, Japanese officials said. The officials said Watanabe and Kozyrev also failed to set a date for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Japan this autumn. Yeltsin had said he would visit Tokyo in September.

Watanabe will meet Yeltsin on Monday [4 May] to discuss the visit as well as the territorial row over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido which has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from concluding a peace treaty since the end of World War II. [passage omitted]

Japanese officials said Watanabe and Kozyrev agreed during their meeting to study experts' consultations on space cooperation and expedite talks on preventing collisions at sea ahead of Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Japanese Official on Talks

LD0405004492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1724 GMT 3 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 3 May—The first round of talks between Andrey Kozyrev and Michio Watanabe, the

foreign ministers of Russia and Japan, which took place at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry today, was wholly devoted to discussion of the problems of bilateral relations. The Japanese minister arrived in the Russian capital last night on an official visit. [passage omitted]

At a briefing given this evening by Seiji Morimoto, a representative of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, it was noted in particular that at the ministers' talks "there was a common understanding of the need for a solution to the territorial problem." Furthermore, Seiji Morimoto said, the Japanese foreign minister highly assessed "the progress in the Russian side's approach." He noted that Tokyo attaches great hopes to Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit.

Speaking about Michio Watanabe's visits to Bishkek and Alma-Ata, the Japanese Foreign Ministry representative noted that the principle of the non-separation of politics and economics covers Tokyo's relations with other CIS member-countries as well as Russia. During his meeting with the leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, Seiji Morimonto said, the Japanese foreign minister had explained the Japanese position regarding the territorial problem and expressed his hope that it would receive "understanding and support."

The Japanese representative also reported that during today's talks the possibility was discussed of another visit by Michio Watanabe to Moscow after the July G-7 meeting in Munich.

Tomorrow, the second round of bilateral talks will take place, which the ministers intend to devote to an exchange of opinions primarily regarding international and regional problems.

The Japanese minister will be received by President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. The possibility has not been excluded of a further meeting between the ministers at the end of the day.

Michio Watanabe's visit to Russia will end on 5 May.

Japanese Diplomat on Goals

OW0305154192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1514 GMT 3 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the Russian-Japanese Moscow talks Japan will assume "a rather flexible but principled position on the territorial problem" (the four disputable Kuril islands—IF [INTERFAX]), a high-ranking Japanese diplomat told Russian journalists, among them an INTERFAX reporter, on Sunday [3 May]. This diplomat is accompanying Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe during his visit to Moscow.

He said that if the Russian government recognizes Japan's sovereignty over the "northern territories", Tokyo will assume a rather flexible position on the form and schedule of these islands' transfer.

He also emphasized that Japan does not intend to drive the Russian population out of the fourth southern Kuril islands, the way the Soviet Union did in relation to the Japanese population of Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and Khabomai" [quotations as received].

The Japanese diplomat noted that Tokyo is not going to put pressure on Moscow in the sphere of bilateral relations or in matters pertaining to economic and financial aid, given Russia's current difficulties. "Pressure cannot serve as the basis for tackling problems," he said.

He said that Michio Watanabe was planning to discuss the territorial problem with a view on "concluding a peace treaty" between the two countries. The solution of this problem should be based on "law and justice," he said.

The Japanese diplomat noted that Tokyo expects Moscow to "display strategic courage" in tackling this issue. Japan is aware, he said at the same time, that the problem cannot be solved without the Russian public's definite consent.

Apart from the territorial issue, the sides will discuss Russian President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Japan this September and Japanese assistance to Russian economic reforms.

The Japanese diplomat said Tokyo supported the Russian government's efforts to build a market economy and achieve greater democracy. "Well-balanced expansion" of such assistance is the policy of the Japanese government, he said. It is "desirable" to have positive results before Yeltsin goes to Japan in September.

Before coming to Moscow Watanabe had visited Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, where he discussed prospects for economic cooperation and possibilities for Japanese economic and technical assistance. This was his first visit to Asian ex-Soviet republics.

Speaking about Watanabe's meetings in Kazakhstan, the diplomat said the Japanese Foreign Minister had called on Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to have nuclear weapons removed from the republic's territory as soon as possible. Tokyo also insists that Kazakhstan sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and wishes such weapons stationed in CIS countries to be put under "strict centralized" control.

2d Round of Talks Held

LD0405104392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1016 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 4 May—International problems connected with nuclear safety were discussed, first and

foremost, during the second round of talks between Russia and Japan at the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry mansion today. This was reported by Galina Sidorova, the Russian foreign affairs minister's adviser on political issues, at the conclusion of delegations' meeting.

According to her, the Japanese side was primarily interested in the nature and the future of relations between Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine, the four CIS states on whose territory nuclear weapons are deployed.

Andrey Kozyrev briefed the Japanese minister on contacts with these states in connection with the forthcoming ratification of START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks). He reaffirmed that Russia continues to insist that Byelarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, at the same time as they ratify START, adopt some kind of legally binding statement that the nuclear weapons on their territories will be destroyed either before the beginning of 1994 or, at the very least, within the 7-year period that START allows for their destruction.

During the talks between the foreign ministers, plans for a top-level Russo-Japanese summit were given provisional approval.

Kozyrev on Nuclear Control

OW0405115092 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The second round of talks between Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev was held this afternoon. Referring to the state of nuclear arms control in CIS states, Foreign Minister Kozyrev said it was difficult to control strategic nuclear arms. Kazakhstan is planning to remain a temporary nuclear state—a move which Kozyrev said Russia opposes. In response, Watanabe said that he told the Kazakhstan Government during his recent visit there that Japan would not be able to provide assistance to Kazakhstan if it possessed nuclear arms. In this way, the two foreign ministers agreed that it was undesirable to have Kazakhstan possessing nuclear weapons.

In order to deepen ties, the two men agreed their nations would hold a meeting at an early date between officials in charge of defense affairs from both sides to discuss security issues. Moreover, they agreed to strive to improve communications systems connecting Japan with the Far East, as well as to open air routes.

Military Dialogue To Begin

OW0405100992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpts] Moscow, May 4 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev agreed Monday [4 May] that the two countries would start a dialogue on security between their military officials, Japanese officials said. The two foreign ministers reached the accord during their second round of talks.

Watanabe and Kozyrev made little progress Sunday [3 May] on the decade-long territorial dispute between their countries over four islands off Hokkaido, which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II. The Japanese foreign minister is scheduled to hold a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Monday evening. [passage omitted]

Watanabe and Kozyrev will hold their third round of talks to discuss the situation in Asia after Watanabe meets Yeltsin, the officials said.

Burbulis Remarks on Japanese Relations

OW3004190292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government intends to seek "special conditions and rules of regulating relations between Russia and Japan in tackling disputable border tissues," State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis said on Thursday [30 April] during talks with a delegation of the Niigata prefecture, known for its long-established contacts with the former USSR. The Japanese guests arrived in Moscow on the invitation of the Ministry of Culture to discuss the opening of Russia's Consulate General in Niigata and of a direct air line linking Vladivostok and Niigatal and also Russia's participation in the Russian Village project in Niigata.

During the talks the two sides expressed satisfaction with the current state of Russian-Japanese relations.

Rutskoy Continues Visit to Israel, Middle East

Signs Agriculture Accord With Shamir

LD0105140892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 1 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv May 1—A memorandum of understanding on cooperation in sphere of agriculture between Russia and Israel was signed by Russian vice-president, Aleksandr Rutskoy, and the head of the Israeli Government, Yitzhak Shamir, in Jerusalem today.

Rutskoy said that this document opens vast prospects for Russo-Israeli business partnership in agrarian sphere. The Russian vice-president, who is here on a working visit, had a meeting with the chairman of the "Avoda" party, Yitzhak Rabin. During the exchange of views on a wide range of questions the importance of the development of bilateral relations between Israel and Russia, both on political, as well as on the level of social contacts, was emphasised. Rutskoy visited a number of

agriculture sector enterprises and aircraft industry establishments on Thursday [30 April].

Concludes Visit, Departs for Egypt

LD0105155692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1421 GMT 1 May 92

[By Aleksandr Zhudro, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 1 May (ITAR-TASS)—The working visit by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy to Israel has ended. Three days of intensive meetings with political leaders and prominent representatives of Israel's business circles made it possible to lay the foundations for developing all-around cooperation between the two countries. The Russian vice president paid particular attention to the future of economic relations; in particular, he spoke in favor of using, on a mutually beneficial basis, the experience that Israel has gained in the field of agrarian and industrial production. A. Rutskoy and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir signed a memorandum of mutual understanding on cooperation in the field of agriculture. The Russian vice president left Israel for Egypt tonight.

Arrives in Cairo 1 May

LD0105181792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1716 GMT 1 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Krutikhin]

[Text] Cairo, 1 May—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived in Egypt from Israel today on an official visit.

At a welcoming ceremony at Cairo airport, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi announced that Egypt views this visit as highly significant and considers Russia to be the successor to the Soviet Union in the international arena.

The head of the Egyptian Government stressed that during the forthcoming talks, opportunities to expand economic, trade, and cultural links between the two countries will be discussed. He added that the role jointly played by Russia and the United States in the Middle East peace process will also be discussed.

A. Rutskoy pointed out that Russia intends to continue to cooperate with Egypt as the Soviet Union did in the past. In addition to the political dialogue between the two countries, he stressed that there are specific moves to forge business ties. He continued: For this reason, a large group of Russian businessmen has come with me to Egypt. Their task is to develop the existing links between Russia and Egypt by "strengthening them with practical moves in economics, agriculture, science, and culture."

A. Rutskoy said Russia intends to retain and restore all the best features that for years bound together the peoples of the two countries.

Discusses Cooperation With Mubarak

LD0205081992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0752 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Krutikhin]

[Text] Cairo, 2 May—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo. Their conversation touched upon developing cooperation between the two countries in the areas of commerce, economics, culture, science, and the expansion of direct business ties between Egyptian and Russian entrepreneurs. International problems, including efforts to settle the Near East conflict, were also discussed.

Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived on 1 May night for a three-day working visit. He will visit Port Sa'id and al-Isma'iliyah today. Talks with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi are scheduled for 3 May.

Foreign Ministry Official on Libyan Sanctions

MK0205143092 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 18, 3 May 92 (Signed to Press 28 Apr 92) p 13

[Report by Mikhail Nikolayev: "Libya: Evacuation Continues"]

[Text] Sanctions against Libya—for which Russia also voted—came into force in mid-April. They signify an actual aerial blockade of the country. Meanwhile, special Aeroflot flights are bringing women and children back to Moscow from Tripoli.

"Russia is upholding and will continue to uphold both the interests of its own citizens and the citizens of other republics of the former USSR currently in Libya. The Republic's government has set up an interagency commission that is charged with studying all issues connected with the implementation of the UN resolutions," MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI was told by Georgiy Kunadze, Russia's deputy foreign minister.

There is a considerable number of such issues; in particular, Russian diplomats have already reserved the right to request the sanctions committee to extend by 3-4 months the deadline for the withdrawal of our military and technical specialists from Libya (they number in excess of 2,900 personnel). They are probably taking into account the analogous experience of the evacuations from Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Kuwait, and Iraq....

In supporting sanctions Russia has actually had to sacrifice long-standing and multifaceted economic ties with Libya. Our economy will suffer a considerable financial blow. The departure of CIS military specialists (who constitute the overwhelming majority of experts and consultants here) in fact reduces to zero the chances of obtaining payment for arms worth $3.5 billion delivered to Libya.

So, Russia must now pay for the Moscow regime's many years of support for the regime of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Almost all the modern armaments in the Libyans' arsenal were manufactured at Soviet plants. What will happen to this hardware now?

The Chinese, who abstained from the Security Council vote but nevertheless did not exercise their veto right, will scarcely wish to assist Tripoli by replacing the Russians who have left. In the foreseeable future the piles of rusting and disintegrating scrap metal left over from World War II scattered about the Libyan desert will be joined by hundreds of thousands of items marked MADE IN THE USSR.

UN Told Work on Libyan Submarine Suspended

LD0205151592 Rabat MAP in English 1326 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] New York, May 2, (MAP)—Russia has informed the UNO [United Nations Organization] committee in charge of supervising the implementation of sanctions against Libya that it had suspended the building of a sub-marine destined for Libya, a source close to UNO said.

At a private meeting here by the UNO ad-hoc committee, the Russian representative affirmed that his country will not deliver Tripoli the engine of the submarine as sanctions are not lifted.

Lithuania had addressed earlier the UN ad-hoc committee a letter informing it of the ongoing building of a sub-marine for Libya in the shipyard of Faubours controlled by Russia.

Palestinian Envoy on Relations With Russia

MK3004111592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 4

[Interview with Nabil 'Amr, Palestinian ambassador to Moscow, by Lev Bruni under the "Near East" rubric; place and date not given: "If Rutskoy Met With the Palestinians He Would See How Much They Like Russia, Nabil 'Amr, Palestinian Ambassador in Moscow, Believes"]

[Text] [Bruni] Ambassador, when you arrived in Moscow, you represented Palestine's interests to one large state, which has now split up into several countries that in general pursue varied foreign policies. Does Palestine intend to adopt a differential diplomacy within the CIS and open embassies in the Muslim and other states of the Commonwealth?

['Amr] Yes, obviously, we have a strong desire to act in this area and have already taken a number of specific steps. First and foremost, we have recognized all the states that belong to the CIS. We have established contacts with practically every one of them, and with some of them we have signed protocols on establishing diplomatic relations. For example, our spokesman is in Armenia this week discussing the question of establishing full diplomatic relations. I plan to visit Ukraine and Byelarus personally in the near future. We understand the important role of these states in resolving our problems and believe that they should cooperate extensively with the Near East, including our state. This is supported by the fact that relations between the former USSR and us have historically been very deep. Naturally, Russia will play a special role.

I would like to concentrate on the economic and political aspects of our relations. We Palestinians receive missions and economic delegations from Russia in Jordan, in the occupied territories, and in Tunisia practically every month. A Palestinian economic delegation has just held talks in Moscow. Furthermore, I would like to say that the growing process of democratization in Russia is causing us joy and satisfaction.

[Bruni] Could you discuss in more detail the economic relations between Palestine—a state that has no borders recognized by the world community—and Russia?

['Amr] Yes, Palestinian territory is indeed occupied at present, but a significant proportion of the Palestinian people is not under occupation. Of the 6 million Palestinians, only one-third live in the occupied territories. Among those who live outside them, there are many well-known businessmen, financiers, and bankers. The largest bank in the Arab world—the "Arab Bank"—belongs to a Palestinian family. So, when we talk about the Palestinian people, we must also talk about individuals who are closely connected with the PLO and their economic capabilities.

[Bruni] Let us move on from economic relations to political relations. Russia has changed its attitude toward Israel. Vice President Rutskoy recently called Israel a friend. To what extent have your views changed in this connection? After all, the Soviet Union was one of the countries in the anti-Zionist front.

['Amr] We are now looking at Russia from a different angle. Russia is a cochairman of the conference on a Near East settlement and itself draws a great deal of benefit from its participation in this process. It has the possibility of establishing good relations with all the parties drawn into the Near East conflict. Russia is not obliged to be on any particular side. After all, it advocates the establishment of peace based on the UN resolutions. That opens the door of the whole Near East for Russia.

Vice President Rutskoy's visit to Israel and Egypt will enable him to see the essence of the problem with his own eyes. If I had the opportunity, I would recommend that Mr. Rutskoy meet with representatives of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He would see how much the Palestinians like the Russians and Russia. There is a Russian Orthodox church in practically every Palestinian city, but the biggest Russian church in Jerusalem has now been turned into a prison. We hope that

Rutskoy's visit will help strengthen relations with all the sides, not just one side in particular.

[Bruni] Russia has decided to participate fully in the sanctions against Libya as announced by the UN Security Council. Certain Arab leaders, notably Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, believe that this is an anti-Arab action. How does the PLO assess this action and Russia's participation in it?

['Amr] To be honest, this is the most complex question you have asked me so far. I will try to give a straightforward answer. Russia took this step on the basis of international decisions. It is a sovereign state and does what it believes to be necessary. So we will not assess this step. Let us look at all the UN decisions concerning the Near East. The Palestinians and all Arabs have suffered as a result of the nonfulfillment of UN decisions over a period of more than a quarter of a century. Therefore, we carefully scrutinize the United Nation's moves. Nevertheless, we believe that these decisions make it possible for everyone to participate in a dialogue. When we talk of sanctions against Libya, the following question arises: Why not apply sanctions against Israel, as it is not carrying out a UN decision? A few days ago Yitzhak Shamir stated that Israel will not give up a single inch of the occupied territories or halt the construction of settlements there. But we cannot see any steps being taken to condemn such statements, which hinder the establishment of peace in the Near East.

Russia is choosing its own path and proceeding on the basis of its lofty reasons. Russia and Libya have many common interests, and I think that Russia will be able to observe them without violating international laws. According to my information, Russian diplomacy took specific steps at the beginning of the Libyan crisis, and I think that it has some other chances of continuing this activity. After all, sanctions are a double-edged sword; you have to approach this weapon carefully. But even if such a weapon is used, diplomacy should not come to a standstill.

[Bruni] Ambassador, there is a problem that concerns Russia, Israel, and the Palestinians at the same time: Jewish emigration from Russia to Israel. This emigration may increase as the result of the unstable situation in Russia, and the PLO has repeatedly made it clear that it is concerned about this.

['Amr] It seems to me that this emigration will scarcely increase, as the situation of the immigrants in Israel is a complex one. We cannot object to an individual's right to move from one place to another. If foreigners arrive on our territory, however, and seize our houses, then we will fight against this to the extent of using military force. We are opposed to colonization and we are opposed to the arrival of immigrants in the occupied territories. From time to time the Israelis state that the immigrants are not settling in the occupied territories. Unfortunately, this is not true. The immigrants are settling in Jerusalem, for example, which represents one-fifth of the occupied territories. So we perceive the immigration in the light of colonization, which we reject.

[Bruni] But is this a Palestinian-Israeli problem or is it a problem that also concerns Russia, which permits emigration to territories that the Palestinians consider as their own? After all, those who leave here to go to Israel still remain citizens of Russia.

['Amr] We not asking Russia to stop emigration now. It would not be able to do this even if it wanted to. Russia has laws that permit its citizens to go wherever they like, and we can do nothing about that. The only thing that I would ask of Russia would be to put an end to colonization and to establish peace in the Near East. Russia and the United States can exert pressure on Israel to put an end to colonization.

[Bruni] Is the alternative an armed struggle?

['Amr] Yes, a struggle, a struggle in the occupied territories according to international laws. According to the UN Charter, any people can adopt every possible measure to expel an aggressor from its territory. Here in Russia, you paid the price of millions of casualties in order to drive out the fascist invaders. We have already had many casualties and will have even more, but we will do all we can to put an end to the aggression. At the same time, we are opposed to terrorism and condemn its use. We ourselves are the victims of terrorism. A struggle is not an alternative to something else. This choice was not easy for us, but we have been forced to defend ourselves.

Deputy Foreign Minister Gives Briefing 30 Apr

LD3004181892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1652 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow April 30 ITAR-TASS—Russia intends to give its closest attention to the strengthening of the Commonwealth of Independent States and its institutions, according to Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Fyodor Shelov-Kovedyayev. He was speaking during a meeting with diplomatic correspondents of the Russian mass media in Moscow today.

The deputy minister stressed that the development of relations with ex-Soviet republics is a priority in the activity of the Russian Foreign Ministry. The ministry sees one of its major tasks in "protecting the rights of ethnic minorities in the ex-Soviet countries".

According to Shelov-Kovedyayev the four-odd months of CIS existence have been marked by a series of accomplishments. One of the main achievements of the Commonwealth is seen by the Russian deputy foreign minister in the fact that on the international arena Commonwealth member-countries act in concord.

Inside the Commonwealth "the activity of the inter-state institutions is not conspicuous because it is effective and goes on without hitches".

Shelov-Kovedyayev said there was nothing dramatic about the differences within the framework of the Commonwealth. "We have left behind the time of unanimity and absolute coincidence of viewpoints," he stressed. Along with this, the deputy foreign minister noted that only seven Commonwealth countries were ready for close cooperation with Russia, while Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan "have yet to determine their standpoint".

Shelov-Kovedyayev told journalists that he would make a tour of the Baltic countries on May 4-6. In Vilnius he will take part in the ceremony of exchanging the ratification instruments connected with the treaty on basic principles of inter-state relations between Russian and Lithuania. During his meetings with leaders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia Shelov-Kovedyayev plans to discuss a number of problems concerning bilateral relations including negotiations on the withdrawal of troops of the former Soviet Union from the three countries.

Further on Remarks

OW3004204192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpts] Russia must remain the sole nuclear republic on the territory of the former Soviet Union, First Deputy Foreign Minister Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev told a news conference in Moscow on Thursday [30 April]. He said that as soon as the world community realized that Kazakhstan and Ukraine seeking to go nuclear stepped over certain limits and their intention began to take material shape, its reaction would be tough.

The Deputy Foreign Minister said that Russia would pay close attention to enhancing the security of the Commonwealth. Shelov-Kovedyayev said the protection of minorities, including Russians, would be on the list of priorities. Russia was going to open embassies in all former Soviet republics. Consular staff of the Russian Foreign Ministry are already being sent there. [passage omitted]

About the possibility of contacts with the Chechen Foreign Ministry Shelov-Kovedyayev said for that the Chechen republic had to become a subject of international law. That required adherence to a certain procedure set down in the Russian constitution. "Neither Checheniya, nor Tatarstan have recognized the need to observe the law. Consequently, we do not regard their statements as having legal consequences".

Kozyrev Proposes CIS Ministers' Meeting

LD0305172992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev sent a telegram today to the heads of the foreign ministries of the CIS countries proposing to hold a meeting in Moscow on 8 May. It is expected that the meeting will discuss questions connected with the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and also the human rights situation in the states of the CIS.

Regarding the aims of the meeting, an RIA correspondent learned that statements are expected to be signed for each item on the agenda. In the telegrams to his colleagues, Andrey Kozyrev expressed the hope that the Moscow talks will promote the success of the meeting of CIS heads of state planned for 15 May in Tashkent.

Foreign Policy Toward CIS States Noted

PM3004145992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Russian Autonomous Regions To Coordinate Their Participation in International Cooperation"]

[Text] It is planned to hold the first conference with representatives of components of the Russian Federation in Moscow in early May in order to involve them in international economic cooperation and division of labor. Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Information and the Press, announced this at a briefing.

He emphasized that the steps taken by several autonomous regions to establish direct contacts with foreign states, which had not been agreed with the Russian Government, are at times creating complex problems for them and for other countries, including legal problems. What is more, such actions often contravene the current Russian Constitution and international law. "One should not therefore be surprised that such steps do not enjoy the foreign states' support," S. Yastrzhembskiy noted.

The briefing's chairman quoted a directive from President B. Yeltsin, assigning to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the basic functions of coordination and monitoring to ensure uniformity of Russian political policy toward the Commonwealth's member states.

In accordance with this document, our ambassadors in the Commonwealth states and representatives of the Russian Federation appointed by the president will be entrusted with leadership at the negotiations on all questions of Russia's relations with these countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said that he meant that Russian diplomats, together with other interested Supreme Soviet departments and committees, will form a permanent working group to elaborate a single stance for Russia at negotiations with the CIS states.

Spokesman on West's Intelligence Activity

LD0405101692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Yuriy Kobaladze, head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service's press service, has expressed the opinion that Western intelligence services are trying to force the Russian Government to reduce drastically, or stop altogether, Russian intelligence activities in the West.

In an IZVESTIYA commentary, he viewed several recent statements by the heads of the French and American special services on Russian intelligence operations. Kobaladze pointed out that one might not agree with the head of the CIA's suggestion that Russian intelligence allegedly acts independently of the political leadership of the country. He said many sensational revelations by the intelligence services regarding industrial espionage by Russian agents were forgeries. France itself has not discarded industrial espionage. Moreover, the United States is not considering reducing the scale of espionage against Russia, Yuriy Kobaladze wrote.

U.S. Said To Counter Increased 'Espionage'

MK2904141592 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 1

[M. Stoyanov report: "Visas Not Envisaged for Spies"]

[Text] Tough times are here for those people going to America on business or simply for pleasure. When obtaining a U.S. entry visa you have to try very hard to prove that you are not a spy. Despite the outwardly friendly relations between Moscow and Washington, the American special services have not only not become less vigilant, but are also paying closer attention to people arriving from the CIS. According to W. Gilbert, FBI assistant director for counterintelligence, this has been caused by the fact that Russian spies working for the Main Intelligence Directorate of the former Union Ministry of Defense—which is now under Russia's control—are increasingly arriving in America under the guise of businessmen and tourists. This makes them even more difficult to find than before, when they generally used diplomatic or journalistic "cover." Therefore, the FBI intends to tighten its monitoring and verification measures when drawing up entry visas for Russian citizens.

Of course, one could assume that our intelligence workers have begun to stay abroad in such numbers that the United States has a surplus of defecting spies, and for this reason it has decided to erect an additional hurdle. According to Gilbert, however, the reason is more trivial: "If there are indeed peace dividends somewhere, then at any rate it is not in our sphere." He maintains that the main purpose of our James Bonds' infiltrating America is to steal military technologies including "Stealth" technology, communications equipment, and computer software.

It would seem illogical to run after someone else's military secrets when your own engine of war is being reduced so drastically. According to the assertions of American officals, however, behind the increased attention being paid to transatlantic military secrets lies an interest to increase the competetiveness of weapons that Russia intends to export in large quantities.

As you can understand, this competition on the world arms market is now alarming the Americans to such a degree that Washington has threatened to refuse assistance to Moscow in the struggle against crime, drugs, and terrorism, unless the scale of its intelligence activity is reduced. In any case, Gilbert hinted that the FBI has effective innovations at its disposal that can successfully counteract Russian espionage. Admittedly, for some reason he did not reveal their technology.

It is noteworthy that almost at the same time as the FBI counterintelligence chief issued his warning, FRG Prosecutor General von Stahl also warned: "We must not labor under the illusion that as a result of the collapse of the Soviet empire, they have put an end to espionage over there," he stated. According to him, it will even intensify.

The recent exposure of a group of French people working for our intelligence service who had access to modern technology would seem to confirm that the crisis the former Union is experiencing extends not just to one area. At the same time, to a certain extent this can serve as a reassuring factor. As NEWSWEEK writes, Americans are increasingly alarmed over the intensified intelligence activity on the part of countries that are friendly toward them, such as France, Britain, and Argentina, which are really on the prowl for state-of-the-art American technologies.

So, we are gradually entering civilized society, although admittedly it is through the "back door," so to speak, at least for the moment.

Federation Affairs

Shakhray Prepares Draft Law on Cossacks

LD0105221892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report over video by correspondents A. Lutskoy and N. Fedorov, including recorded interview with Russian State Councillor Sergey Shakhray, heading commission on rehabilitation of Cossacks; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] State Councilor Sergey Shakhray today chaired a session of the commission preparing a draft law the on rehabilitation of the Cossacks. The commission discussed the issue of consolidating the Cossack forces, but it is not yet clear what methods should be used to this end. The matter has a touch of mystery.

[Lutskoy] The commission, which is being headed by State Councillor Sergey Shakhray, is to resolve many issues which include, first and foremost, the land reform

in areas where the Cossaks form the majority of the population, the development of local self-government, military aspects of Cossacks' activities, the restoration of historic names, and the rehabilitation of the Cossacks themselves. What hopes do you associate with the restoration of the institution of the Cossacks?

[Shakhray] I come from the Terek Cossacks. I grew up in a Cossack stanitsa [village]. The process of reviving Cossacks is under way. Both the president and Government of the Russian Federation have a clear-cut aim to adopt the most positive element taking place in this process, namely patriotism, the restoration of Russian statehood, the restoration of historic traditions, and the use of forms of land cultivation.

[Fedorov] Do you believe in the consolidation of the entire Cossack population on CIS territory?

[Shakhray] I think that where these two countries of the Commonwealth are concerned, namely Kazakhstan and Ukraine, the problem of Cossacks should be dealt with in a special agreement so that the border between the two countries does not turn into a border dividing people's lives. [video shows the session: Shakhray interviewed]

Shumeyko on Cash Deficit Control Measures

LD0105140892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Vladimir Filipovich Shumeyko, deputy chairman of Russian Supreme Soviet, answers a question from our correspondent.

[Unidentified correspondent] A question that worries many citizens in the Russian Federation is the question of cash deficit. Unfortunately it exists, and it is substantial. Is there any hope in this matter?

[Shumeyko] Yes, the question is extremely serious. It became even more acute when a minimum wage was introduced. Cash is needed to pay it. But no matter how many machines print banknotes, we will obviously not be able to have the cash that is necessary to cover all expenditures. So it is probably necessary to be strict in introducing payment by checks in state trade transactions. You know that checks are being introduced extremely slowly, although they have been printed out, and the Central Bank has worked out a whole procedure about it, and has sent them to localities. Nevertheless payment by checks must be introduced very strictly.

There is a second measure that the government will probably take. At least Deputy Prime Minister Gaydar has set such a goal: to work out the amounts and issue the relevant documentation before 10 May to the effect that salaries would be payed out four times a month, weekly. Let us say advances would be payed out in the first three weeks and the remainder of the pay would be payed out in the last week. Then money would circulate much more quickly and sums that would be payed out would be considerably smaller than if they were payed out once a month, or as one advance and a salary. There is a whole number of other measures, such increasing the nominal value of banknotes 1,000 or 10,000 times. But the thing is, you can't go to the market with such big banknotes! [sentence indistinct] So, this does not solve all the problems. In the end, I believe that the most important measures will be the weekly payment of wages and the introduction of payment by checks in state trade and in all state transactions.

Petrov Says Nation's 'Rebirth' To Be Achieved

LD0305101492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 2 May 92

[Interview with Yuriy Petrov, head of the Russian president's administration, by unidentified announcer; place and date not given; from the "Plus 11" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Kremlin wall. For many years it was like an internal iron curtain for the whole of our society but today we are different. And if once again we are being appealed to show patience then at least we should trust those who have come to lead us. We should know their past and their present and feel that we share a common world view and common aims, that we share a common life which is equally difficult for all, and common hopes.

In this program we want to acquaint you with a man whose name the majority of Russians heard for the first time only at the February rallies. We will not try to provide an assessment of him or his opponents. We simply want to give people the opportunity to draw conclusions independently, without being prompted. And for this we need, at least, to know whom we are talking about.

And so, today we are talking with Yuriy Petrov, head of the administration of the president of Russia.

Yuriy Vladimirovich, in the past you replaced Boris Nikolayev Yeltsin, who was then very popular among the locals, as leader of Sverdlovsk Oblast. Was it not difficult to follow in his footsteps?

[Petrov] Under Boris Nikolayevich a great many good things were done in the oblast. And the prestige that he gained there was gained by hard work. And everyone who worked with him tried to help and tried, as far as they were able, to emulate him. Many of us really learned a great deal from Boris Nikolayevich. We learned to be decent and honorable and to adopt a businesslike approach directed toward the final result and of course when I took office as first secretary I tried, first of all, to continue all the good things that had been done.

[Announcer] In the past, if a leader was brought from an oblast to Moscow it meant that someone here lent a hand. Did you have a patron?

[Petrov] Well, I did not have a patron in the usual sense of the word. There were people, including some in the

party Central Committee, who knew my work well and evidently it was they who insisted on my transfer. Moreover, I was categorically opposed to this and spent a long time asking Boris Nikolayevich to protect me and leave me to work in the oblast.

I worked for three years as first secretary of the oblast committee and then worked for three years as ambassador to Cuba. Was it easy? No it was not. The work in the oblast was not easy nor was the work as ambassador in Cuba.

From the point of view of how I left this post I must say that I left without regret. When I was invited, or to be more precise while I was on leave, Boris Nikolayevich invited me to transfer to a job in the president's administration, as leader of the administration, I accepted this with great satisfaction and came here with the desire to work. During the first half year, or perhaps a bit more, that I have been working here I was concerned with questions connected with organizing the work within the apparatus.

The very complicated period which we are now undergoing, the changing of the government, the reforming of the cabinet and the renewal, to a considerable extent, of the apparatus, all of this, in one way or another, introduces disorganization, and there are also transfers. Am I satisfied with the work? No, not at all. I consider that here we have a great deal to do. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] The cost of living is high in our country and there are really unlimited prices. Is this felt by the family of such a high-ranking leader?

[Petrov] The high cost of living affects us just as much as other people. We buy things in the shops at the current prices. Like everyone else I think that these prices are very high, unexpectedly high, I would say. My pay is now about 7,000 rubles.

I think that we will achieve the rebirth of Russia. In any event the processes that are now under way are like labor pains, you know. This is difficult and painful but this is for the sake of the future. The effect will be felt not today but later. And, evidently, today's politicians will depart and opinions about them will differ. Everything is directed toward the future, with a view to history, so that at least our children and grandchildren should live a better, freer, and happier life than the life that we lived. Although I would say, in general, there is nothing to repent of. In any event, I do not repent what has been lived through, what has been done. It is another matter that more should have been done. But this is dissatisfaction, and everyone experiences that.

Council Concludes Entrepreneurship 'Criminal'

LD0105200192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0937 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Moscow—The founding conference of the Non-Governmental Council has come to the conclusion that honest business in Russia today is impossible. This conclusion was made at the opening of the conference on April 30, and was recorded in its guidelines to promote private entrepreneurship. The declaration adopted by the conference emphasises that the council's aim is to mobilize the world community to support democratic transformations in Russia. The new organization receives financial assistance from the Fund for the Support of Democratic Transformations in Russia, the Garriy Kasparov Private Charity Foundation and some other organizations. It is expected that the council's composition will include Sergey Shakhray, Yuriy Boldyrev, Vladimir Lysenko, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Aleksandr Yakovlev, Sergey Yushinkov and a number of other political figures. The council is headed by Russian People's Deputy Petr Filippov. The guidelines propose that the Russian authorities adopt a law to fight against the bureaucracy, appealing directly to the citizens and liberating their initiative and enterprise.

The conference also insists that private firms should be set up without any restrictions, by merely notifying the relevant state agencies, and also that enterprises should be encouraged to reorganize themselves into smaller units set up as self-sufficient enterprises, maximally simplifying procedures for obtaining land plots for private ownership and privatizing housing. It has also been recommended to the Russian Government to offer preferential shares to those groups of citizens in the course of privatization which will offer the best programmes for normalizing the enterprises operation and improving their performance. The conference participants consider it desirable to grant tax exemptions for small private businesses, obligating state enterprises to pay dividends to the state.

The International Monetary Fund, foreign governments and private banks are requested not to extend any credits to the Russian bureaucratic structures, giving them only to private enterprises against the pledge of their assets. The conference has appealed to foreign governments to grant privileges and exemptions to firms setting up joint ventures with private Russian companies. The conference participants will discuss questions of promoting private enterprise, guarantees to foreign investors, ensuring international security, promoting conversion in Russia and also the question of migration and emigration as possible destabilization factors. Yuriy Boldyrev, chairman of the Russian president's Supervisory Committee, said socialism continues its triumphant march across Russia, but without due supervision or control mechanisms. Because the bureaucratic arbitrariness is unlimited, everything that is going on has nothing to do with democracy or freedom of enterprise. It is a totally hopeless business for an entrepreneur to work honestly, and this is why entrepreneurship in this country today is basically criminal. The IMF demands to the Russian Government are essentially of a monetary character. Meanwhile the main thrust should be placed on

depriving the bureaucrats and government officials of the right to take any decisions with relation to economic subjects. It is also necessary to adopt strict legislation on sanctions against unlawful actions of officials. As long as domestic business is unperfected and forced to conceal money abroad, it is senseless to make any guarantees for foreign investments: no foreign capital will be forthcoming anyway, Boldyrev said.

Emergency Reserve Issue Raised

LD0105161492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Vitaliy Shlykov, deputy chairman for the Russian Defense Committee, reported some interesting information. It turns out that the value of Russia's emergency mobilization reserve exceeds the financial aid of 24 billion dollars which the IMF and the World Bank are granting to the republic. Today at a constituent conference of the Nongovernmental Cooperation Council [nepravitelstvennyy sovet po vzaimodeystviyu] he publicly raised the question of using the strategic reserves. According to Vitaliy Shlykov, he raised this problem with Boris Yeltsin and Yegor Gaydar more than once but did not meet any understanding on their part.

Government Should Adapt to Market or 'Go Bust'

PM0305142192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 May 92 p 2

[V. Prokhvatilov article under the rubric "Question of the Week" and under the general heading: "To Accept or Not To Accept. IMF Credits Promised, but Doubts Remain"]

[Text] If we are to objectively assess the results of applying the remedies which IMF experts have recommended for curing sick economies, only three instances of a full recovery can be found: the FRG, Japan, and South Korea. In these countries full political stability was ensured at the cost of the presence of U.S. troops. Moreover, it is necessary to note that the creation of "cornerstone" models of the market economy in these countries, standing in opposition to the communist regimes in East Germany, China, and North Korea respectively, was in the U.S. national interests.

Where there was no direct communist threat, for example in Latin America, the results were different.

The very recent examples are even more discouraging: Take Yugoslavia where civil war broke out after A. Markovic's government had stabilized the dinar, and perhaps Poland. Balcierowicz's government simply failed to halt the economic decline; it resigned and now the Poles are returning to state regulation of the economy.

You cannot say that the Western experts are not paying attention to all this. Several years ago, when the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development was headed by the American Barber Conable, who incidentally visited our country on several occasions, it was proposed that the methodology of giving aid to developing countries be radically changed—from the model of the "austerity economy" to an evolutionary model of "economic growth" based on selling shares in and diversifying the economy, and on the priority development of share capital as the "locomotive of economic growth." Roughly speaking, China chose a similar path under the leadership of the wise Deng Xiaoping.

Incidentally, there were and still remain plans for economic reform based on the evolutionary development of the complex of the USSR (now Russian) national economy. Professor Ye. Yasin calls this path corporatization, [Russian Federation Supreme Soviet] Chairman R. Khasbulatov calls it a transformation of the economy using a corporate model, and one Western expert gave this model of the reform the exotic name of "USSR, Incorporated." This is the route which Abalkin attempted to take, it was on this path that Ryzhkov stumbled, and Pavlov "took the steep path" up this selfsame slope....

Just listing these names bears witness to the fact that Yegor Gaydar rushed into the arms of the foreign currency "octopus" not for a good life and not for want of knowledge of economics. Necessity dictated this. After all, the USSR military-industrial complex turned out to be incapable of evolution.

The consistent implementation of the plans which the IMF has recommended will mean that, as the convertible ruble is introduced, Russia's borders will become "transparent" for Western goods and prices will be comparable to world prices. But please tell me who is going to buy our rolled iron at world prices? The question is rhetorical...In short the state of affairs can be described as follows: A dilemma is facing the corps of Russian directors—Either adapt to the laws of the market or go bust.

An analysis of situations conducted by the group of experts under Ye. Yasin's predicts: Directors who have been driven to despair may lead millions of people out onto the streets.

Unless economic policy is significantly amended, we simply will have no opportunity to reach the distant future when Russia will "sink in the mire" of international debts.

For the Record: The initial quotas for the states of the former USSR have been determined: Azerbaijan received $106.86 million; Armenia—$61.65 million; Byelarus—$256.19 million; Georgia—$101.38 million; Kazakhstan—$226.05 million; Kyrgyzstan—$58.91 million; Latvia—$83.57 million; Lithuania—$94.53 million; Moldova—$82.2 million; Russia—$3,940,120,000; Tajikistan—$54.8 million; Turkmenistan—$43.84 million; Ukraine—$911.05 million; Uzbekistan—$182.21 million; and Estonia—$42.47 million.

The size of the quota for each country is equivalent to the membership dues which it should pay in full to the fund. The member's quota is the main factor of its financial and organizational relations with the IMF.

Fuel Minister on Important Foreign Investment

LD0305092892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Video report by correspondent N. Chernyshova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our courageous people have become hardened to trials and tribulations. Just think of what they have had to put up with. And they still have to line up for what they need. The increase in prices has only just begun to ease the congestion. That's why people buy enough gasoline for three containers rather than one.

The so-called gasoline crisis may soon become a crisis for the entire country. There are now over 20 countries that consume more oil than us. This is a result of the consistent fall in oil output: 17 percent in recent years and another 20 percent this year. During the years of stability the country invested over 40 percent of its total capital investment in this sector. But the investment program has now collapsed to all intents and purposes. Some 70 percent of oil production equipment is already worn out.

[V. Lopukhin, Russian minister for fuel and energy] Our plans lie in three main areas. First, there is the restructuring of the industry and the switch to the market economy. Second, there is our price policy. The third area, which is also quite important, I think, is the attraction of additional foreign and private capital to the country.

[Chernyshova] An investment program for the resuscitation of the industry is almost overdue. In Tyumen Oblast, alone, the 12,000 wells which are out of use are each [as heard] capable of producing 3 billion [unit not given] every year. Prospected deposits in the West Siberian oil and gas province are estimated to contain 2.5 billion tonnes. But the investment that is needed has to come from somewhere.

[M.B. Khodorkovskiy, chairman of Ministry's investment fund] Unquestionably there are people who want to invest money. But, in my view, there's been no response from those people, those leaders who are demanding the investments. They still think that they can go on producing what they produced before. Meanwhile, the world owes them a living.

[Chernyshova] The idea that money also has to be bought has not turned out to be very popular. But only manna from heaven is free in the market economy to which our country so aspires. In my view we've already had enough of that.

Government Establishes Oil Sales Commission

LD0105133892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Government of Russia has decided to create a commission which will supervise sales procedures for oil and oil products in the Russian Federation. The commission is being headed by Dmitriy Kondakov, deputy chairman of the oil refining committee in the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering. The commission is to carry out selective checking in the provinces on the methods of setting prices for oil and oil products, ITAR-TASS notes.

Bureaucratic Red Tape Blamed for Sowing Lags

PM0105140392 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 1 May 92 p 1

[M. Ivanov report under the "Spring Alert" rubric: "The Field Is Crying Out, Ministers Do Not Hear..."]

[Text] According to data from the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, as at 27 April spring crops had been sown on an area of 9.659 million hectares, including grain and pulse crops (excluding corn) on 6.821 million hectares. Both indicators are 14 percent behind last year's level.

Potatoes and vegetables in public sector production have been planted on areas of 42,000 and 72,000 hectares respectively, which is respectively 7,000 and 17,000 less than at the same date last year. Sugar beet has been sown on 388,000 hectares and sunflowers on 363,000 hectares. A total of 6.3 million hectares of winter crops has been top-dressed—this is just 40 percent of the overwintered crops.

If you try to summarize all this, you will be unable to glean any words of comfort, nor will you be able to put the lag down to the weather or simply to the farmers' sluggishness. The reasons for this lie in the fact that most of the resources that are needed to carry out the work successfully are as always managed by government structures, and their leaders, obviously lulled by fairy tales about the omnipotence of market relations, are behaving like novices in a store whose only concern is to see that prices do not fall.

"Rosnefteprodukt" workers (headed by V. Tarakanov) have put the peasant in an extremely difficult position. Because aviation gasoline did not appear in a number of regions at the crucial time, the preparation of winter crops was thwarted. Rostov, Voronezh, Chita and other oblasts lack enough diesel fuel or gasoline for motor vehicles. Meanwhile the monopoly holder of oil products is prospering through the exploitation of commercial prices, taking up to 12 rubles per liter of gasoline. And the compensation payment for fuel oils envisaged by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolution is not being paid out. Vice President A. Rutskoy's secretariat has received 50 telegrams about this from the provinces.

Because of the price rises, this year farms have ordered the minimum possible amount of fertilizers and plant protection agents, but in a number of regions (Samara, Saratov, Tambov, Voronezh, and Volgograd Oblasts) even this minimum has not been delivered on time. Neither has "Rosagrokhim" (N. Olshanskiy) ensured delivery of pesticides for the countryside; only 16 percent of the plan order of domestic production has been received, and a mere 53 percent of imported production.

For many regions last year was unfavorable. The Russian Ministry of Agriculture and Food (V. Khlystun) knew who would require help in acquiring seeds and how much would be needed. Clearly, the chance to find this out and do something about it was missed. Among other things, today there is a shortage of seeds for resowing the winter crops that have died in Kostroma and Rostov Oblasts, and Siberia is sounding the alarm about corn seeds. In many places peasant (private) farms are without sowing material. It is hard to comprehend the leaders of the Ministry of Economics and Forecasting (A. Nechayev), the Ministry of Finances (V. Barchuk), and the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity (Yu. Ponomarev) when they say that 11,600 tonnes of corn seed and 1,000 tonnes of sunflower seed have been imported, but this is not being sold to farmers. The price has not been set, you see! As if three months of concentrated frowning are needed to get this done.

And finally there is the matter of money. A market has been declared, the prices of the resources that are delivered to the countryside have been freed. But the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, not to mention the unfortunate private farmers, are currently insolvent. They have nothing with which to buy fuel, spare parts (the Ministry of Trade and Material Resources headed by S. Anisimov is demanding up-front payment from them), seeds, and fertilizers. The state is not settling up with the peasants for the produce they give back in return. And credits are a problem too. The Central Bank of Russia (G. Matyukhin) is flagrantly violating the Russian Federation Government's resolution on preferential credits for agriculture in the second and third quarters. Over the last few days 75 telegrams have arrived from the provinces saying that credits are being issued at 50-53 percent annual interest rather than 8-10 percent. Farms are in no position to accept this sort of help.

Countryside in 'Extremely Grave State'

LD0105170692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Commentary by KRESTYANSKAYA GAZETA observer Valeriy Gavrichkin]

[Text] As far as good news is concerned, let me warn you right away that the countryside really is in an extremely grave state. Supplies of fuel and seeds are irregular. There is a shortage of equipment, spare parts, and even cash. The credits, quotas, funds, and so on which have been hastily allocated to agriculture are late arriving. In some cases they do not reach their destination at all.

Nevertheless, I do not want to over-dramatise the situation as far as sowing is concerned—there is no need to. No matter how difficult things may be at the moment, the peasants are actually working rather well. In front of me I have the bulletin issued by the Russian State Committee for Statistics covering the period up to 20 April. Spring crops have been sown on more than 6 million hectares [ha]. This is not a huge figure, but it does not need to be yet. The end of April is not yet the time for final results.

I asked the statisticians to give me the corresponding sowing figures for the same period in each of the last four preceding years. The results are interesting. I will not bore you with the figures, but sowing is proceeding at the customary rhythm and pace—slightly slower than last year and the year before, but much more vigorously than, for example, in 1988. In other words, the variations are quite ordinary ones, caused by the seasonal characteristics of spring rather than any extraordinary circumstances.

The situation as regards planting of potatoes and vegetables is however worrying. The acreage sown to these crops has declined in virtually all of the last four preceding years. My prediction will not be a mistaken one if I say that this year's potato and vegetable acreage, on all categories of farms with the possible exception of smallholdings and private plots, will be the smallest for the last five years. This is not yet an alarm signal. Ultimately what matters is not the number of hectares but the yield and proper storage of the harvested crop, though there is of course some cause for concern.

My final point is this. The hostile reception given by the generals of the agro-industrial sector to the president's decree on the reorganization of collective and state farms is still fresh in the memory. Rutskoy's panic-stricken telegram, in which he went almost as far as to withdraw the decree on the grounds that, allegedly, the sowing campaign was under threat, was greeted in some areas with something approaching jubilation. But if you assess the statistics, you can see already that field work is actually going more smoothly on those farms which have managed to reorganize themselves—not for form's sake but for real.

Unfortunately, there are not enough of these places in Russia. Those same generals have prevented the reform from getting going properly, just as they have failed to give land to the peasants in any meaningful way. This stupor is a far more serious matter than even the shortage of spare parts or gasoline.

Council of Factions Leader Novikov Interviewed

LD0305172292

[Editorial report] Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 2 May carries a

six-minute report on the Council of Factions, including an interview with Vladimir Ilyich Novikov, chairman of the Council of Factions.

The announcer talks about the recent Congress of Russian People's Deputies, noting that "there are about 15 parliamentary factions, perhaps more than in some traditionally democratic countries." He asks: "Who do they represent, and what influence do they have on the line-up of political forces in the Supreme Soviet? Does it help the drawing up and adoption of coordinated decisions, or does it, on the contrary, serve to exacerbate discussions at sessions of the chambers? What is the role in all this of the recently formed Council of Factions [Sovet Fraktsii]?

Correspondent Valeriy Shabanov then interviews Novikov. Novikov says that the Council of Factions is not a body of the Russian Supreme Soviet, but of the entire corps of deputies. He emphasizes that the factions are "self-managing organizations to which nobody can give instructions, in any form. The factions themselves make all the decisions. I see my role as coordinator of the actions of these factions, to bring them, graphically speaking, to one negotiating table. Then I have to stand aside and give the floor to the factions alone, for it is they who are participants in these negotiations."

Novikov emphasizes that as chairman of the Council, he does not represent the interests of his own faction, but remains wholly neutral: "In the Council, the role of faction representative is carried out by our second coordinator, Yuriy Alekseyevich (Yudin), or Revgat Mumarakovich (Akhunov)." Asked how the factions themselves emerged, Novikov says that groups were originally set up among the people's deputies at the first congress according to interests, but then the professional alignment gave way to a political one, hence the emergence of parliamentary factions.

Correspondent Shabanov points out that at the Sixth Congress, there were cases where some members of a faction voted contrary to the faction's political line. Novikov replies: "The fact is that discipline within a faction does not at all mean that decisions taken by the general assembly of a faction must be fulfilled unquestioningly. This is how I regard faction discipline: At a general assembly, we discuss some issue or other, and having discussed it, we say we shall vote for it.

"But that does not mean that no one can say that he will vote against it. The only thing we ask is that you should say you are going to vote against, and thereby we can predict the number of votes for and against. Discussions can then be held with other like-minded factions to ensure that the chances of any bill passing through parliament can be calculated."

Novikov adds that he was gladdened to hear Yeltsin, at the end of the last Congress of People's Deputies, welcoming the establishment of the Council of Factions, thereby recognizing "officially where the main votive force of the corps of deputies lies."

'Working Russia' Demands Poll on Resignation

LD0205151992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1343 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Semenova]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)—The "Working Russia" movement is trying to achieve the holding of a nationwide poll regarding the premature resignation of the president and his government, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the headquarters of the movement.

For a referendum to take place its organizers need to collect 1 million signatures over three months. The collection of signatures started in Yekaterinburg, Samara, Krasnodar, Chelyabinsk, and other Russian cities today. The first 30,000 signatures were put to the demand for the referendum by Moscow inhabitants during the 1 May demonstration in Red Square yesterday. The political council of "Democratic Russia" has decided to organize a referendum in support of extending Boris Yeltsin's additional powers.

Democratic Russia Supports Referendum

LD0205093192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Moscow May 2 TASS—An emergency session of the Political Council of the Democratic Russia movement has decided to support the proposal of President Yeltsin, put forward at a meeting with workers of the Cherepovets metallurgical complex, on collecting one million signatures in support for a nationwide referendum on the problem of the Constitution.

Leaders of the movement believe the central question of the referendum should be formulated in the following way: "Do you agree that a new Constitution of the Russian Federation should be adopted by freely elected representatives of the nation, who will not be dependent on bodies of state power?" In their opinion, the problem of the private property on land and of additional prerogatives for the president could also be put to a referendum.

The Political Council of the Democratic Russia movement intends to hold an all-Moscow rally in the second half of May and to begin collecting signatures there. According to Kirill Ignatiyev, deputy chairman of the Political Council, "one million signatures needed for holding the referendum could be collected by the movement in two months, or two months and a half, with the help of its regional branches."

'Patriotic' Organization Criticizes Yeltsin

OW0305123192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 3 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian National Council, a patriotic organization campaigning for the restoration of the Russian national statehood, published a statement on the situation in the Dniester region.

The Russian National Council was founded in January 1992 and unites, according to the Council's Duma, 74 patriotic organizations of Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Kazakhstan and Moldova (the Dniester republic). Among its leaders are ex-general of the KGB Aleksandr Sterlygov and writer Valentin Rasputin.

The statement says that the tragic developments in the Dniester region were due to indifference and direct connivance on the part of the Russian leadership, above all President Yeltsin.

The Russian National Council believes that the Dniester conflict may be settled only if the sovereign rights of the Dniester and Gagauz republics are recognized. The wisest solution would be to create a federation of three absolutely equal state entities: Moldavia, Pridnestrovye (the Dniester region) and Gagauzia (the Gagauz region).

The Russian National Council also stated that the attempts of the Moldovan extremists to "nationalize" the 14th Army were inadmissible. "Its units must be used exclusively for disengaging the conflicting parties," says the statement.

Action Group Calls for 'Civic Reconciliation'

PM0305143392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Call For 'Renewal'"]

[Text] An action group of 55 people of different professions, ethnic origins, and political views (including A. Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs) has disseminated a call for the creation of a new social movement—the "All-Russian Renewal Union."

The group advocates the unification of competent industrialists, agrarians, entrepreneurs, the intelligentsia, and "business people in general" with a view to struggling for the civic reconciliation of society, the sensible promotion of democratic reform without impoverishing the people, and the achievement of economic prosperity and a flowering of culture.

Military Considered in Future of Space Program

LD0305175792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] As you know, 1992 has been declared International Space Year. Along what lines will the exploration of the expanses of the universe proceed in Russia? Our correspondent Vladimir Belov asked Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of Russia's Academy of Sciences, to answer this question. Here is what he said:

[Begin Velikhov recording] Once again I shall be expressing my own opinion, and it might be more critical. The disgraceful situation is that while we possess such space equipment and potential we are totally lacking in communications and have very little monitoring facility. That is what is required. Our scientific programs too, although they are interesting ones, are of course disproportionate to our space potential. There are two reasons for this. On one hand all the national economic space work was to some extent the indirect offspring or vestige of military work in space. The proportions and the outlay on national economic work in space must be substantially altered.

The second thing is that, whereas previously the programs were drawn up either at the Defense Ministry or at the Ministry of General Machine-building and were then approved by the military-industrial complex, they must now proceed through the real consumer.

We have three main programs. The science program will proceed through Russia's Academy and be approved, of course, by the Supreme Soviet. The second program will be through the Ministry of Ecology and Resources. This resources program—indeed there are many of them of all types, including cartography, meteorology, ecology, and so on—they have had an absolutely neglible share of the overall expenditure. Their share must be increased many, many times over.

It is again ridiculous that we have so many satellites, while there is no ordinary GPS [Global Positioning System] receiver in the country. The latter is about the size of your tape-recorder and makes it possible to determine the location of a motorcar, truck, or anything you like. That is to say, once again we are spending nothing on ground facilities.

As for the situation in communications, there are two reasons for this. First, I think that all the communications satellites have just simply become out of date. Again very little was spent on the ground facilities. Second, the Ministry for Communications should itself be reorganized. Legislation should be far more liberal. There is no need for the manned program—there is no call for it in these three programs. As far as they go, these activities are, no doubt, interesting. We agreed that Korolyev's firm, Energiya, should find a customer. It is claimed that customers for this program can be found throughout the world.

In particular, one of the elements of this program has direct practical implemention, that is, the use of our transportation spaceship. Soyuz-T can be used as an element for the rescue of the Mir station astronauts.

The Buran question is, of course, a very difficult one. On the one hand, the problem is that Proton is our main working rocket. It does not meet modern ecological requirements. Kazakhstan will certainly firmly insist that we modernize it radically to reduce the damage it inflicts on the living world and ecology as a whole. As for the creation of a new rocket on the basis of Buran, there

has been little success so far. Although it is ecologically clean it is rather expensive. We shall have to sit down and decide what to do next. As a whole, Buran is of no use either for the military or for peaceful purposes.

Supreme Soviet

Bakatin Views Postcongress Political Scene

MK0205132992 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 18, 3 May 92 p 5

[Article by Vadim Bakatin, head of department of the "Reform" Foundation, under "In the Country" rubric: "Who Gains From a Tie?"]

[Text] The congress ended happily. This is good. The problems have remained. It could not have been otherwise. Only some incorrigible idealist nurtured in blind faith in "historic decisions" could expect anything different.

All the congress battles only demonstrated yet again that more than ever before we now need a strong executive power. Strong in terms of professionalism, clarity of programs, the support of the legislators, and the people's trust. There is a long way to go to achieve this. We are seeking the victors and counting the wounds. "There are no victors and vanquished, a deep wound has been inflicted on society," some people are saying. While the president jokes: "A tie in our favor...."

It is possible to agree with this and even express a cautious optimism... There can indeed be some benefit from the congress if the government seriously reexamines not the goals but the methods of attaining them.

If not, then the "tie in our favor" will turn out to be a defeat for the government and a tragedy for the people.

For sure, nobody wants this, with the possible exception of those deputies who have replaced the banner of Marxism-Leninism with "Russian patriotism." What was said over and over by the Russian "patriots of the USSR" will suffice the non-Russian "patriot-separatists" for several months of excited quotation.

Indeed, it is not so easy suddenly to renounce the temptation to resolve the problems of "one's own" people in one fell swoop at the expense of others. But if someone has already renounced this, then he can expect nothing but unpleasantness in his own homeland.

But if we do not hope for the strengthening of the CIS, then ahead lies disintegration with numerous variations of equally bad consequences. And for Russia the way out is not to be found in swapping the ideological hoop for the chains of great-power status. Nothing at all will come of this. The only thing from which something may emerge is perseverance. This is a policy founded on the objective geopolitical responsibility of the strong to ensure stability, free development, and common sense in the historically formed community (cohabitation) of large and small peoples.

An active, initiative-oriented, benevolent, and flexible policy of strengthening a commonwealth based on friendship [so-druzhestvo] and of creating its democratic institutions and legal base. This does not mean, of course, that today someone has the right by his own decision "to remove" certain acute—especially territorial—issues. But they should be put off until better times.

Without the obligatory condition of the strengthening of the CIS and acknowledgment of the impossibility and utopianism of restoring the USSR, no one and nothing will hold back from disintegration the Russian Federation itself—and indeed not just it alone.

The congress ovations following the unanimous ratification of the Federation Treaty were fine. The relatively problem-free inclusion of the text of the treaty in the renewed old Constitution and the draft of the new one is reassuring. But nevertheless anxiety over the unity of the Russian Federation has only intensified after the congress. For the chauvinist rhetoric of the various ideologized and de-ideologized patriots which pervaded the congress cannot fail to affect the intensification of national-separatism.

It was always imagined that in relation to reactionary forces—fascist-inclined forces, if we are to call things by their proper name—the policy of all authorities must be built on disregard for them, and in instances defined by the law—on their prosecution. We, however, are operating precisely the other way around. A lot of noise but no "actions."

Today, pussyfooting on the part of the de-ideologized democratic power around the barely legal manifestations of chauvinism and nationalism may with some inevitability bring the authorities themselves to chauvinism or the chauvinists to power, as the only possible reaction to ideological, moral, and legal extremes. The congress debate demonstrated that this is an extremely realistic supposition. And at that time all the joy over the inclusion in the Constitution of a worthy section on human rights will prove to have been premature.

However, all these "fears" will not be so fearful if, following the congress, the government—triumphant in the confused political battles—is able to demonstrate in fact the ability to draw lessons from the mistakes, flexibly to amend its course, and to influence that minimum of processes without which the guarantee of viability is lost and any program—even an intensive market program [sverkhrynochnaya programma]—is rendered pointless.

It is important to discard as quickly as possible the simplistic search—inculcated by our past—for the reasons for failures not within ourselves, not in the essence of the problems, but in the "sabotage" and intrigues of another "enemy." For some "frenzied" democrats this is represented by the "nomenklatura" so dear to their hearts; for politicians of the Gorbachev or Baburin mold, on the contrary, the "enemy" is the very democrats themselves, who in fact are not democrats at all but the

disguised "stooges" of imperialism and Zionism. The saddest thing is for Gaydar's team too to begin to search for culprits if suddenly nothing works out for it.

It will work, it definitely will. But only when the entrepreneur, the small private trader, and the private farmer become a sufficiently appreciable social stratum, when they are numbered in their millions. But however much one would want this, it cannot happen quickly. The reason for the small number of private farmers lies not with the "nomenklatura." The conditions are lacking, the psychological readiness is lacking...There is not a great deal that, according to laws and commands, is not going to put in an appearance. To plan the pace here is not only impossible but even harmful. It is necessary to survive and experience a lengthy transitional period during which the state sector and state regulation are essential.

And there is nothing surprising in the fact that the experts of the IMF do not understand this. They encounter many countries, but they know of no other country such as this one. They do not know what is meant by "socialist competition," a "communal apartment," and a "Timurovets" [name given to member of children's social movement for assisting families of soldiers, invalids, and sick people, from a story by A. Gaydar]...

The congress is over. The problems remain. And the chief thing is to halt the slump in the economy. Such an economy as there is, even if it really is the economy of the absurd.

In creating a legal, moral, and political regime most propitious for the natural development of market relationships the government really needs extensive assistance and support.

'Second Stage' of Reform Requires Adjustments

PM0105141892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 May 92 pp 1-2

[Interview with Vladimir Shumeyko, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, by Vitaliy Kovalenko, under the rubric "Sixth Congress: Summing Up"; place and date not given: "Vladimir Shumeyko: Translating Reform Into the Language of Directors"]

[Text] [Kovalenko] "A new stage of reform is beginning—its implementation at microlevel, at the level of enterprises and associations." This sentence, uttered by Vladimir Shumeyko, formerly director of a major instrument-making association and now deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, was echoed repeatedly at the Congress. Probably because it was in line with the views of many deputies on the need to adjust the government's course. But what did its originator mean by it, how does he see the content of the second stage of the reforms?

[Shumeyko] We need to bring the directors back to life. For some reason it came about that all of them were written off wholesale as conservatives and reactionaries, and we started implementing the reforms not only without consulting the body of directors, but often in spite of them. Yet any industrialist knows that a plant can manage without raw materials for a week, but it will not survive a single day without a leader.

[Kovalenko] It seems to me that this came about because of fear—which is a very influential force in our country. On the other hand, if you pick any one of our directors, you are bound to find a monopolist, and therefore someone who is objectively opposed to the market....

[Shumeyko] Why are the directors to blame? The production of 87 percent of our output is organized in such a way that each article is produced by one plant, or three at most. They used to make long-shafted screw taps in Vilnius and they supplied the whole country; the enterprise went over to sovereign Lithuania, and no one had anything to cut threads with. It was the same story with the cigarette filter factory in Armenia....

What can you do, that is one of the realities of a socialist economy. And unfortunately, it is not the only one. On a par with ultramonopolism, I would mention barter, as the main form of economic relations. The word itself came into use only recently, but these relations have always existed: The state took an enterprise's output, and in exchange supplied raw materials, subassemblies, and essential equipment.

[Kovalenko] And when the state shuffled off responsibility for material and technical supplies, the deformed barter market flourished abundantly.

[Shumeyko] There again you are putting the emphasis on a value judgment—that the barter market is deformed. I agree with you, what could be more primitive than simple commodity exchange? But that is not the main point today. The point, in my view, is that **there is no alternative**. Such things as commodity-money relations are unknown to our plants. They used to read about them, naturally, but they lived by different laws: The program was always drawn up in physical terms—we want such-and-such a quantity of metal, or plastic, or electric motors...They adjusted the rubles to fit the physical requirements, and they even had a term for it: going to the ministry to extract finance. And when the reforms started—and they started in the financial sphere—it turned out that enterprises were incapable of taking on board the stimuli coming from above. The monetary levers which the government had begun to use could not be translated into production of output. There was a totally inappropriate reaction in the shape of automatic spiraling of prices and curtailment of production.

[Kovalenko] So the government is right to brush aside the directors—they cannot work under market conditions?

[Shumeyko] Who can? We are not living in the clouds, it is not possible to replace the entire body of directors

instantaneously. But even supposing that all the directors became market supporters at once, even then not much would change in real life.

Four out of five plants are monopolies, that is, they objectively have the ability arbitrarily to increase prices, since the consumer has nowhere else to go, after all. In the last analysis every enterprise is a mechanism for making a profit. And monopolist behavior will always be preferred, irrespective of the director's moral principles and political convictions.

I am therefore very skeptical about the euphoria gripping society over the forthcoming privatization. And the fact that this process is very complex, prolonged, and contradictory is beside the point. In Belgium, if I am not mistaken, they privatized the mails, and prices immediately rose, while the quantity and quality of services declined. So why do we think that a private businessman, replacing a state director, will act in society's interests? On the contrary, first and foremost he will take advantage of monopoly conditions to make superprofits.

For heaven's sake, don't think I'm against privatization. I simply think it is no panacea, and maybe not even the top priority.

[Kovalenko] So what are the priority tasks?

[Shumeyko] First and foremost, structural restructuring. According to the most conservative estimates, 60 percent of our industry works for defense. There can be no question of a better life while more than half the population are employed in producing something that people really do not need.

In parallel, it is necessary to set up a market infrastructure quickly—real mechanisms to enable financial stimuli to reach the production unit and force it to restructure itself accordingly. Without that, you can talk all you like about the market, but we will not get beyond speculation in commercial stores.

[Kovalenko] The whole question is, how will this be done, and, most important, by whom?

[Shumeyko] The directors.

[Kovalenko] Those same people who have only the vaguest notion of commodity-money relations?

[Shumeyko] We haven't any others, and that is an objective reality, just like the ultramonopolized industry we inherited. Only it is a mistake to think that all directors are alike, and anyway they are not just standing still, the majority are by no means the same as they were yesterday. We should help them—suggest where they should go, propose concrete methods.

About three years ago a whole series of inter-sector state associations sprang up. In the political turmoil, they went more or less unnoticed. Quite undeservedly. Because proper market structures were set up within the framework of state ownership, structures which, first, escaped the state's protective blanket, and, second, quickly began to commercialize themselves. They acquired sales and marketing subdivisions and foreign trade firms, and many of the inter-sector state associations set up their own banks. As a result, even in today's extremely unfavorable conditions, not only are they not cutting back production, they are actually gaining speed.

However, I would particularly like to highlight the integrated and natural way in which market reorientation has taken place within these structures. Enterprises came together voluntarily to form inter-sector state associations, on the basis of mutual need and the common desire to escape state patronage. To achieve this, the directors put forward a leader from among their own number—the one who was best prepared for life in market conditions, and he then dragged the rest after him. It was done rapidly, and without forcibly cutting people down to size.

I think we should pin our hopes now on this self-propulsion mechanism. Although when it comes to the method, I would now prefer holding companies—they incorporate a mechanism for transfusing capital, which is extremely necessary for structural restructuring, and moreover the task of privatization fits in with this easily.

[Kovalenko] But holding companies are discredited now. First the old ministries tried, using this as a way of changing their label, and now the Ministry of Industry is launching a campaign for the creation of holding companies in which the birthmarks of the indestructible main administrations are clearly showing through. Our newspaper, incidentally, has already written about this.

[Shumeyko] You have touched on another very complex problem, one of the priority problems—the economic role of the state, which the majority of people still see as the universal provider. I think the government was absolutely correct to set a course of driving away from the budget feeding trough all those who have the use of their arms and legs and who have a head on their shoulders, in short, those who can feed themselves. Only children, pensioners, and the sick are entitled to claim support and assistance from the state. Certainly not enterprises.

This approach, however, requires a fundamentally different management structure. The old system was based on the principle that the state maintained the enterprise, and in return it took from them the right to distribute their output. This procedure is familiar, and it keeps recurring under the new conditions. Recently, for instance, I had an argument with Titkin, who was annoyed about the decision to sell shares in the Norilsk Titanium and Magnesium Combine and cited as his main argument: "How am I going to control its metal now?"

Once again, we will not make progress toward the market unless we hand over both rights and responsibility to the lower levels and cut the enterprises off from the state's

apron strings. If we link the dismantling of state ownership to privatization alone, we will inevitably push the start of normal life back by several years. Yet we have to live today, tomorrow, every day. That is why I think the transformation of relations between enterprises and the state must begin immediately, without waiting for a change of owner. Holding companies could unite enterprises that are linked by technological, regional, or other interests and seek to ensure the most efficient utilization of state property in market conditions.

[Kovalenko] So what will then be left for the Ministry of Industry to do?

[Shumeyko] It should become a ministry for industrial affairs, and instead of managing, it should create favorable conditions for the enterprises' work, it should lobby, if you like, for their interests in the government and the Supreme Soviet. In addition it would work on major projects associated with nationwide programs on ecology and scientific and technical progress, where state support and finance are essential. In the initial stage there will probably still be a need to place the state order and draw up concrete proposals for the annual privatization programs....

[Kovalenko] Vladimir Filippovich, you have sketched out a very harmonious structure, and it would be easy to believe in its viability, except for one "but." Privatization is already in progress. And the majority of those involved are concerned not so much with changing the ownership of state enterprises, as with turning state property into personal capital. The directors are also involved in this process: They are setting up subsidiary firms and branches, into which the enterprises' resources are pumped. In this connection it is open to doubt that the 200 or 300 specialists who will make up the leadership and apparatus of a holding company will take care of the interests of state property, rather than their own personal interests.

[Shumeyko] I do not want to defend the directors, but I think this phenomenon should be assessed objectively. It all started, if you remember, with half a concession: We shamefacedly agreed that there could be rich people in society, who travel in Mercedes cars rather than by streetcar. And the process took off, so to speak—after all, who does not want to be rich? But the field in which you can get rich was artificially restricted—to the sphere of circulation. And a crazy distortion arose: People who plunged into commercial, stock-exchange activity were able to make their million in a matter of a few months, while industrialists who have several thousand people behind them and who control tens of millions and are therefore already halfway to being property owners, saw their path barred. And so all kinds of offshoots sprang up in the form of small enterprises and joint ventures, through which people tried to rectify this injustice.

I am not saying this is so, but just suppose that these ground rules were imposed deliberately—so as to filter people out and determine who should get rich and who should not. If that is the case, then there was a major strategic blunder, as a result of which society's political and economic systems came into conflict. The stability of a democracy can be ensured only by the class of property owners, or the middle class, as we say nowadays, and not by a select few. And in this respect the president's statement at the Congress that what we need is not hundreds of millionaires, but millions of property owners, was, in my view, extremely important.

We must now level out the legislative playing field that has been created in recent years. First, we must remove the contradictions, of which a great many have accumulated, remove the distortions created on the basis of political considerations during the period when Russia was in conflict with the center, and finally harmonize the interests of the state, the regions, enterprises, and individual citizens. We should create the conditions for a very wide influx of people into the property-owning class. And directors certainly must not be at the end of this line. If only because it is in society's interests for property to fall first and foremost into the hands of people who know how to handle it.

[Kovalenko] Was that why you proposed at the Congress that the proportion of shares issued to enterprise leaders be increased to 20 percent?

[Shumeyko] I do not intend to focus attention on figures at present. The point is that the edict system of management has collapsed, orders of any kind do not work, and if you want to put a decision into practice then every time you have to identify the interests of the main executors and harmonize them. Yes, I think the leaders should have a substantial proportion of the shares, and then they will not be looking for profits on the side and ruining their own enterprises, they will be concerned to ensure their efficiency. But as for what that proportion should actually be—we must experiment, and find the optimum. The same applies to taxes, prices, and credit interest rates. To listen constantly to what life tells you—that, in my view, is the main adjustment the government should make. In practice, to do this it is necessary to create a mechanism which will ensure real feedback and make the government always correlate its decisions with the economy's potential, thereby making adjustments daily, rather than from one Congress to the next. Only then will it be possible to pursue the reforms effectively and at minimum cost.

'Formidable' Opposition to Yeltsin Cited

LD0305191692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 3 May 92

[Commentary by Vyacheslav Solovyev]

[Text] One of the main results of the recent Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's superparliament, is admittedly the breakup of the legislature into three mainstream factions. Commentary is by Vyacheslav Solovyev and this is what he writes:

Mr. Yeltsin and his government are now facing a formidable opposition alliance calling itself Russian Unity. It comprises more than 300 MPs [members of parliament] coming from different factions such as Communists of Russia, Fatherland, Russia, and the Agrarian Union. The 250-strong democratic coalition, speaking in support of reforms, includes radical democrats, the Left of Center faction, and the Democratic Russia movement. Perched in the middle is the coalition of creative forces, including factions such as the Industrial Union, the Workers' Union of Russia, and the New Blood New Policy group.

An analysis of the voting results on the main issues of the agenda indicates that government opponents outnumber its supporters by two to one, while the number of those who reject Cabinet policies outright exceeds that of unquestionable support by three to one, which many see as the start of a new, albeit tougher round of power struggle. However, they also indicate the struggle can now be carried out in a somewhat civilized manner, once different interest groups are represented in parliament, rather than being taken out on to the street.

The fragile balance of forces in parliament reflects in a way, or even affects, the state of political life in Russia in which there is a clear trend towards the unification of parties and movements into different alliances. Neocommunists, constitutional and Christian democrats have now joined forces in a so-called Right and Left wing alliance which is close in its aims and goals to that of Russian Unity in parliament. The three groups are united by Russian nationalism, a desire to bring the former Soviet Union back at any cost, and the downright unacceptance of Mr. Yeltsin's reform.

On the other side of the spectrum are the staunchest supporters of government policies, often identified with the Democratic Russia movement.

Along with a sharp polarization, there is a sign of the gradual formation of a centrist alliance, which is the main factor of stability in any country. Its overriding principles are the maintenance of Russia's integrity, further reform—albeit with substantial corrections—the balance of power between the executive and the legislature, and opposition to any form or shape of radicalism, jingoist or neobolshevik or pseudo-democratic. The central alliance is likely to be formed by influential groups such as the Democratic Reform Movement, as well as by Mr. Travkin's Democratic Party of Russia and the Free Russia People's Party led by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

Congress Lost Opportunity To Lessen Crisis

PM0105152692 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p1

[Captain Third Rank V. Yermolin commentary under the "Observer's Remarks" rubric: "The Congress Has Been and Gone; We Must Carry on With Our Lives"]

[Text] The recent Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies will stay in our minds for the same reasons that previous lofty gatherings of people's deputies have stayed in our minds: It was held and it did its utmost to leave its mark on our lives and somehow influence their direction. That is a fact. But how did this manifest itself? What decisions were actually made? I do not think many of us can even remember. Which is basically how it should be: A patient is not obliged to remember which medicines cured him—the most important thing is the end result. Our reasoning is equally simple: Either we will survive or we will not.

In the course of its two weeks' work, the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies adopted quite a few documents. Reality began to amend some of them while the Congress was still in progress. From the resolution "On the Agenda of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies" to far more "fateful" documents. The resolution on the progress of economic reform, for example. Raising the price of gasoline is like opening the floodgates: Once done, the government risks unleashing an avalanche of uncontrolled price rises for all forms of energy. Price hikes across the board will be inevitable. Come summer, the economic situation could be such that most of the clauses in the Congress resolution will only be of historical and archive interest.

That is the main point. Just as there was no working mechanism—however primitive—of implementing laws in Russia before 6 April, so too now, with the Congress behind us, laws continue to soar above the realities of everyday life, leaving them totally unaffected. Moreover, the source of these "soap bubbles" is unimportant: the chambers of parliament, the Russian president, or the Congress itself.

None of the documents adopted at the Congress is insured against archive paralysis. Apart from those which resolve nothing and are merely a declaration of noble intentions, of course. Like the resolution on Russia's political status within the CIS, for example. Perhaps the real efficacy of the Congress is determined by precisely this kind of strictly political, non-applied statement.

In my opinion, the futility of the efforts of those who have spent all these days trying to give the people some laws as a means of salvation should have been felt by deputies in Moscow particularly keenly. Everything in this once glorious city shrieks of lawlessness knowing no bounds. What kernel of wise legislation could penetrate this rock-hard earth? One example: While the Congress was in progress, Moscow's Chief Sanitary Inspector prohibited street trade in milk, butter, cheese, sausage, and other foodstuffs requiring proper inspection. Just a year ago, a ban of this kind would have cleared the markets of people selling these goods in a matter of minutes. Nowadays, however, no one takes any notice. Out of curiosity, I visited a number of primitive Moscow markets: Trade in potential carriers of infection was lively and brisk wherever I went. The picture is the same

whatever example you choose to take: The law goes one way and real life goes the other.

The point marking the minimum level at which a family can consider itself well provided for is creeping ever upwards; 80 percent of Russian families are craning their necks and following its progress with wistful eyes, remaining far below. Against this background, the Congress forced out its decisions—most of which are undoubtedly necessary and reasonable—but did virtually nothing to provide the mechanisms of legislative and executive power with a driving belt.

Statistics impassively show that only one in six Russian citizens have preserved their faith in the Congress as a state institution with a real influence on their life.

Generally speaking, our people have very little faith in anyone nowadays. Moreover, the crisis of confidence in supreme power is an inevitable side effect of the period of fundamental economic reform. In my view, however, the Congress had an opportunity to lessen this crisis of confidence. That opportunity was undoubtedly lost.

I certainly have no desire to accuse deputies of anything. With few exceptions, they all worked conscientiously to earn their living as deputies: As far as they understood their duty to the electorate, each one tried to somehow ease the lot of the people enduring the era of reforms. I am far from thinking that some kind of internecine political struggle was waged at the Congress. It might be true to say that today's deputies are coming increasingly to assume the features of a social class. Outwardly, confrontation can be very dramatic, but they do have common interests. First and foremost, the need to preserve strong parliamentary power, which only a few ignore. As a rule, it is those who have a sinecure in the structures of executive power. As a whole, however, all our elected representatives are doomed to the notorious consensus. The rules allow for a little disorderly conduct during debates, but a different law—the law of class interest—comes into force when it is time to vote. Or, to put it differently, the law of self-preservation of the deputy corps.

Do we need this corps, this Congress? It is my deep belief that we need it desperately. If only because, vis-a-vis legislators, members of the executive have certainly not recommended themselves as irreproachable statesmen. It is probably true to say that no modern-day European state would even theoretically contemplate as many mistakes as the Yeltsin-Gaydar cabinet has made.

In other words, no one, other than the giant Russia, could bear the weight of all these follies. We have remained on our feet and are now moving on. We believe in Yegor Gaydar, his professionalism, and his lucky star: Not only because we think he is the man for the job, but because he was the first to start making a few moves. That is better than endless sentimentalism and obvious fear of making the first move. Consequently, it seems to me that the majority are now with Gaydar, including those who have seen white bread and butter disappear from their daily diet as a result of his reforms. It is certainly of no small importance that about 1,000 people periodically gather in Moscow and boldly speak the truth to the government, Boris Yeltsin, and all the other bigwigs. We must admit that quite a lot of truth has been spoken in these last two weeks, much of which was on the tip of our own tongues. We cannot deny that the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies was a healthy exercise in letting off steam.

It is significant that the results of the Congress were summed up by the Russian president, rather than by the Congress itself. Yeltsin was magnanimous and moderate in his critical appraisals. Everything turned out alright in the end, the government remained intact, and Boris Nikolayevich himself emerged from this tricky situation even stronger and more self-confident than before. All in all, it would be hard to think of a better way of strengthening presidential power than holding Congresses of People's Deputies. Consequently, all talk of the president's intentions to abolish the deputy corps with the aid of a referendum is clearly far-fetched. People's deputies in the 1990 mould will meet again more than once in the future to tell the Russian president how the people live and what their aspirations are.

The same could be done by the fourth estate, unloved by deputies: the mass media. But there is no guarantee that the media will not be told its place in the near future.

So, the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies has sunk into oblivion. Meanwhile, we mortals must carry on with our lives.

'Dithering, Disorganized' Deputies Scrutinized

PM0105125592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Commentary by Nikolay Andreyev: "Chaos Cannot Govern Chaos"]

[Text] From the very first day of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, I had been expecting the impassioned cry: "It is time to start sowing!" On the 11th day, my expectations were realized. A deputy from Siberia called for the proceedings in the Great Kremlin Palace to be curtailed, because "fieldwork is starting."

If even the participants in the Kremlin sessions see their work as pointless, insignificant, and a waste of time, what must ordinary mortals feel? The people are watching the proceedings in the Kremlin with bewilderment and cannot grasp what is actually happening. It looks rather like a rally, at times it is transformed into a tribunal, but it usually comes across as a demonstration of caprice and ambition. This vagueness and uncertainty is giving rise to fear. After all, the Congress is the supreme legislative institution of the Russian state. Our future depends on the Congress. Will it be based on the principles of law and order? Or will anarchy and chaos rule us? Unfortunately, the latter scenario is becoming an alarmingly distinct prospect.

We can see our supreme legislative organ being unable to even sensibly organize its own work. First it is carried in one direction, then in another. Sometimes it drives itself into a labyrinth of its own free will and does not know how to get out of it. The clearest example is its relationship with the government. In the very first hours of beginning work, the Congress launched a determined offensive, during which Ye. Gaydar and his team suffered a crushing defeat. Having accomplished this unparalleled feat, deputies discovered that they were unlikely to get any gratitude or appreciation from the people. So they adopted a declaration nullifying their victory and expressing ardent support for the government.

We have more than enough chaos in our lives already. We are tired of muddle, confusion, and anarchy. We want to wrench ourselves free of the mire of uncertainty and step onto firm ground. But when we observe the turbulent, chaotic activity of the Congress, we realize that we will be wandering through the quagmire and swamps for a long time to come. Chaos cannot govern chaos.

Nor do we get a feeling of dependability when we observe the Russian Government. Unfortunately, it has adopted some of the bad features of the Union government. For example, whenever N. Ryzhkov or his successor V. Pavlov attended a parliamentary session, ministers for some reason felt it was their duty to be there too. None of them could explain why. It would have been sufficient for Ye. Gaydar and the other vice premiers to attend the Sixth Congress to give reports and explanations and discuss matters with deputies. But virtually every minister has always been present in the sessions hall. As a result, all work in the ministries has ground to a halt for the duration of the Congress: two weeks. I received a telephone call from the head of a scientific establishment in Orenburg. She had come to Moscow to "deal with a certain matter," to use the language of officialdom. But there was no one around. Everyone was at the Congress.

But the greatest bewilderment has been caused by President B. Yeltsin's silence. People are at a loss as to what this could mean. It is either a sign of indifference to the way events are developing in the Andreyevskiy Auditorium, or an echo of the sense of omnipotence and might which the oblast party committee first secretary used to have. Or perhaps it is a sign of some higher wisdom, an attempt to rise above the fray? He may even be ill. Any of these explanations would be acceptable if it were not for the specific conditions of our political life, which presupposes the head of state's visible participation in critical events. B. Yeltsin's disappearence is an additional source of unease, discord, and the most incredible suggestions. At a time when the government he leads is being torn to shreds, when the Federation Treaty is under threat, and when fundamental changes are being made to the Constitution, the president's absence leaves a very strong feeling of resentment.

Some people believe the Congress should be dissolved and abolished so that it cannot offend our noble feelings. But there is no point doing that. It would bring such discord to society that we would certainly be left in a state of chaos for all eternity. Moreover, we must bear in mind that, if we dissolved the Congress, we would have more than 1,000 martyrs like Umalatova, Alksnis, and Petrushenko. In any case, deputies would meet somewhere in Voronovo and continue their tireless activity.

But even that is not the main point. We must not ask too much of deputies. They are the product of Russian society—dithering and disorganized. The Congress is a mirror in which we see our own image. We are all the same: We cannot agree on the simplest matters but are capable of making a trivial issue into a global principle. We demand rule of law from others but scorn the most basic rules of human society. And so on and so forth. Of course, when we see all the uproar in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, we are filled with a sense of pride for our own worth, because we feel we could do everything better and more sensibly. But we should not deceive ourselves.

We would do better to simply endure a natural disaster like the Congress. This is not so onerous, after all: It is only for two weeks twice a year. It does not cost very much either: Only 1 million rubles per day. At today's prices, that is nothing.

Resolution on Minimum Wage Law Issued

PM0105205592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 May 92 p 2

[Resolution No. 2705-1 of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On Certain Questions Linked With the Entry Into Force of the Law of the Russian Federation 'On Raising the Minimum Wage,'" signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 21 April 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. That the Russian Federation Government shall by 15 May 1992: prepare and submit for consideration by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposals regarding the procedure and sources of funding for expenditure linked with raising the remuneration of personnel at budget-funded organizations and establishments;

stipulate specific dates in the second quarter of 1992 for the minimum remuneration for personnel at budget-funded organizations and establishments to be raised;

raise wage rates and salaries of personnel at budget-funded organizations and establishments with consideration for the consumer price index and the average industrial wage;

formulate and ratify a well-founded system of differentiation in the level of remuneration for various categories of personnel at budget-funded organizations and establishments;

formulate a mechanism for raising the wage rates and salaries of personnel at budget-funded organizations and establishments that precludes the wages of personnel at budget-funded organizations and establishments from lagging more than 30 percent behind the increase in consumer prices in the future;

submit for consideration by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposals bringing existing legislative acts into line with the Russian Federation Law of 21 April 1992 "On Raising the Minimum Wage" and this resolution.

2. That the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic Commission for Social Policy and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Government and the Russian Pension Fund study proposals by 1 August 1992 on the procedure for the payment of the minimum old age pension and consider the question of the advisability of changing the procedure for the calculation of the minimum old age pension prescribed by the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR" and submit a corresponding coordinated proposal for the consideration of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 21 April 1992

Resolution Enacts Operational Investigation Law

PM0105124792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3

[Resolution No. 2507-1 of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On the Procedure for Bringing Into Force the Russian Federation Law 'On Operational Investigation Activity in the Russian Federation'", dated Moscow, House of Russian Soviets, 13 March 1992 and signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. The Russian Federation Law "On Operational Investigation Activity in the Russian Federation" is to come into force on the day is it published.

2. The Russian Federation president is instructed to determine within a month the procedure for the disbursement of financial resources being allocated to operational investigation activity.

3. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Questions of Legality, Law and Order, and the Struggle Against Crime, the Committee for Defense and Security Questions, and the Legislation Committee are to ensure the monitoring of operational investigation activity on Russian Federation territory and the disbursement of the financial resources allocated for this purpose.

4. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Questions of Legality, Law and Order, and the Struggle Against Crime, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee, is to prepare within a month a Russian Federation Draft Law "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Criminal Code and the RSFSR Code of Criminal Procedure Following the Adoption of the Russian Federation Law 'On Operational Investigation Activity in the Russian Federation'," and submit it to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

5. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions is to elaborate within three months Russian Federation Draft Laws "On Security Organs" and "On State Secrets," and submit them to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet for consideration.

6. Within two months the Russian Federation Government should:

adopt the necessary legal acts to implement the provisions of the Russian Federation Law "On Operational Investigation Activity in the Russian Federation";

ensure that ministries and departments authorized to engage in operational investigation activity on Russian Federation territory review and abolish any of their normative acts that contradict the aforementioned law.

7. Ministries and departments vested with the right to engage in operational investigation activity on Russian Federation territory under the Russian Federation Law "On Operational Investigation Activity in the Russian Federation" should promulgate by 1 May 1992 normative acts implementing this law.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet
[Dated] Moscow, House of Russian Soviets, 13 March 1992
No. 2507-1

Regional Affairs

Far East Military District Commander Dismissed

LD0105180192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1616 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Vladivostok—According to some reports, on April 28 Colonel General Victor Novozhilov was dismissed from the post of the Far Eastern Military District Commander. According to reports by informed sources, the dismissal of the commander of the Far Eastern Military District (FEMD), Russia's biggest military unit,

has been made possible, notably, by Novozhilov failing to see eye-to-eye with the present leadership of the CIS United Armed Forces on matters of military construction. According to some other reports, Novozhilov failed to cope with running the FEMD nuclear potential jeopardizing its combat readiness. According to the same sources, the commander of the Kiev Military District, Colonel General Vladimir Chichevatov, who refused to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine, was appointed FEMD commander. The FEMD command refused to officially confirm Victor Novozhilov's dismissal. The FEMD is based on the territory of the Amur, Magadan, Sakhalin, Kamchatka and Jewish autonomous regions and also in the Khabarovsk and Primorskiy territories and numbers a few hundred thousand people. Besides conventional weapons, the FEMD is armed with land-based strategic nuclear weapons and movable operational-tactical complexes.

Siberia Exchange To Auction Military Aircraft

LD0105170592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1454 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Business News" section]

[Text] Novosibirsk—The Siberia Conversion Exchange is going to sell a consignment of military aircraft worth over U.S 100 million [dollars]. After obtaining in early May a license for trade on the exchange, the Siberia Conversion Exchange is going to put combat aircraft SU-24 priced U.S. 25 million [dollars] and also SU-24 and MiG-29 engines priced about 2.2 million to its own bidding, exchange Technical Director Igor Minin told PF [POSTFACTUM] on April 30. Besides, the exchange can auction (should there be a buyer) virtually any military equipment from different CIS republics, Minin noted. To buy the military equipment to be put to the Siberia conversion bidding, one has to have a Russian Government license for buying it as well as a number of other papers including an export license, and as regards military aircraft—papers certifying the rights to their utilization and the availability of the technical servicing personnel. At present, owing to the lack of a license for exchange activities, Siberia conversion is holding joint auctions with the regional television exchange Siberia (Novosibirsk) and the Turk-Sib exchange (Novosibirsk), Minin said. On April 30 entered on the joint auction were only the Sarboyan night vision instruments priced R [rubles] 18,000 a piece and on April 23—the Sova night vision instruments priced R8,500 a piece, PF was told by RTE Siberia broker Sergey Shur. Other military equipment was not auctioned because of its high price and lack of demand, Shur said.

Official on Restoration of German Republic

LD3004170492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—The top political leaders of Russia and the German movement reflecting the interests of the nearly two million Germans of the former USSR, over 800 thousand of them residing in Russia, have a political will for a stage-by-stage restoration of the statehood of Germans in Russia, Valeriy Tishkov, chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy of the Russian Federation, told a briefing at the press centre of the Russian Foreign Ministry on Thursday [30 April].

Tishkov told the briefing about the first session of the Russo-German commission on problems of ethnic Germans in Russia held in Bonn on April 21-23. During the session, the sides initialled a protocol on cooperation between the governments of Russia and the FRG to restore statehood of Russian Germans stage-by-stage.

Tishkov believes this document is of importance for doing justice to the people supressed by the Stalin regime. The document envisages allocating shortly territories where primary national formations—a national area and a national district—will be set up with taking into account the opinion of the population of the Volgograd and Saratov regions.

The protocol envisages financial aid to Russia by the FRG in implementing a number of important economic projects to improve social conditions of the entire population of these districts, not only of ethnic Germans in Russia, he said. As early as this year, the FRG will supply approximately 100 million marks to the first projects. The German side intends to contribute this sum every year in future. Tishkov said these figures include only state investments, which are to be followed by private investments. The projects planned include schools, hospitals, facilities to process farm produce and a number of exemplary farms.

Tishkov said that a national area and a national district will be formed in places where Germans make up a considerable part of the population and which had earlier been included in the Volga German Autonomous Republic. He said he did not think that the percentage of the German population should be stipulated. The most authoritative leaders of ethnic Germans participate in forming autonomous area and district.

Answering questions, Tishkov said that the protocol does not envisage any timeframe for the restoration of the Autonomous German Republic in Russia. He said the demographic situation did not warrant considering the restoration of an autonomous republic.

Chechenia Ready To Resume Talks With Russia

LD0105130592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Chechen Republic is ready to continue the Russian-Chechen talks started in Sochi at a level of groups of experts. This was said in a telegram sent by

Akhmatov, chairman of the republican parliament, to Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Chechen Bodyguard Rejects Media Reports

OW0205165792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief of the Chechen President's bodyguards, Abu Arsanukayev, has rejected the reports which appeared in the Russian media yesterday (May 1) to the effect that he unarmed in Nalchik several officers from the Kabardino-Balkar Interior Ministry, taking two rifles and one revolver away from them. Arsanukayev has told one of our correspondents today that he did go to Nalchik on business and that there was an attempt to prevent him from paying one of his planned visits. But the incident was settled by dialogue, with no violence or weapons used.

August Coup Investigation Continues in Chechen

OW0205165292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Criminal Investigation Committee of the Chechen Republic, Mansur Tagirov, has told our correspondent that there over 60 persons are suspected of complicity in the abortive coup d'etat in Checheniya on March 31, and that 12 persons who actually took part in the seizure of the TV center have been arrested. All twelve have pleaded guilty. Seven of them are still in custody, the rest have been released.

Criminal proceedings have also been instituted against six persons who have left Checheniya. However Tagirov refused to give their names.

All those arrested, he said, were not being kept in prison but in army guard houses. "No violence is being used towards them, nor is any psychological pressure being put on them," he said. "The investigation procedure meets all legal standards of a law-based state."

St. Petersburg Military Industrialists Convene

LD0105195892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] A Russian Government delegation has been holding talks with managers of the St. Petersburg military-industrial complex [MIC]. Here is our correspondent Denis Gurinskiy.

[Gurinskiy] For the fourth day high-ranking officials from the Russian Finance and Industry Ministries and the Russian president's committee on defense-sector conversion have been holding behind-the-scenes talks in the Smolnyy with St. Petersburg military industrialists in an attempt to defuse a conflict which arose a couple of months ago. Judging from reliable reports, the sides were unable to reach an overall agreement on the future of the St. Petersburg MIC, the most powerful in Russia.

However, they did sign a provisional protocol, whereby the Russian Government guarantees that St. Petersburg military producers will get and be paid for federal state orders at 50 percent of last year's level. The protocol also envisages that Moscow will grant more licenses for St. Petersburg to export military hardware and armaments, with most of the profits thus earned going to the St. Petersburg conversion fund. The St. Petersburg MIC also won the right to retool factories independently in order to meet non-state orders, and even to change their form of ownership.

The sides did agree that they will soon have to hold more detailed consultations and sign a permanent agreement on their reciprocal rights and obligations, and thus resolve the conflict. However, spokesmen for the St. Petersburg MIC are highly skeptical that full agreement can be achieved, and have pointed out to journalists that there are fundamental differences between them and the government on the anti-crisis program for St. Petersburg's military industry. They commented that Moscow has still not guaranteed central finance for conversion projects, or to return their ruble and hard currency bank deposits which were spent by the State Bank.

The result is that the St. Petersburg MIC is heavily in debt and cannot go ahead with conversion programs at its own enterprises. Still, they are willing to continue talks with the Russian Government, and will send a delegation of experts to Moscow.

Freedom of Press in St. Petersburg Assessed

LD0405004992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] By a UNESCO decision, 3 May was designated International Press Freedom Day. Denis Gurinskiy considers how free the press is in Russia's St. Petersburg.

[Gurinskiy] According to members of the St. Petersburg Union of Journalists, about 500 journalists currently work in the city, and of these, about 80 are exclusively political reporters and experience the greatest professional problems.

As regards information, the present democratic authority of St. Petersburg, akin to the former Communist Smolnyy, assists only information bodies which it has established. Journalists of the unoffical press, however, as previously, are forced to fight for the right to be free of authorities and at the same time to cover events in St. Petersburg in a proper and timely way.

To all appearances, it will not be easy to carry out this task, since the critical economic situation of the majority of St. Petersburg editorial offices is a greater burden by far than difficulties in obtaining the necessary information from the authorities.

According to a report distributed by the St. Petersburg Union of Journalists, only 12 of the more than 75 St. Petersburg editorial offices today have a stable readership, financial potential, and an optimal bank of information. Others are faced with overcoming an almost unbelievable hurdle—a deficit in finance, information, and consumers.

The statistics on the persecution which has already taken place by the authorities and a number of groups of the St. Petersburg editorial offices of individual journalists is also dismal. Over the past 12 months, the St. Petersburg Union of Journalists has registered at least 14 incidents when the authorities cut short or threatened to cut short the activity of St. Petersburg journalists for political motives. In at least 22 incidents, persons and groups unknown carried out terrorist acts with regard to editorial offices or even specific journalists, also on political grounds, it is suspected.

Almost 90 percent of these crimes remain unresolved by the law enforcement bodies. According to approximate calculations alone, over the past year, about six St. Petersburg editorial offices, and about 35 local journalists have suffered in one way or another at the hands of the authorities or other forces.

No one can guarantee an end to the growth in repressive anti-journalistic measures, until the authorities themselves leave aside their attack on the press and take effective measures to defend the freedom of expression and press in St. Petersburg, experts from the St.Petersburg Union of Journalists feel.

Denis Gurinskiy for Russia's Radio press service, St.Petersburg.

Moscow Introduces Street Trading Restrictions

LD0105204692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A Moscow government resolution regulating street trading in the city came into force today. Street trading is now forbidden along the whole of Tverskaya and the Novyy Arbat, in Pushechnaya and Nikolskaya streets, in Okhotnyy Ryad, and Teatralnaya Ploshchad, in railway stations, in squares outside stations, in airports, and in underpasses and metro halls.

However, trading is permitted in Stoleshnikov Pereulok, and on the Kitay-Gorod metro station square. A local Moscow tax on trading rights is to be introduced in the near future. Revenue from this tax will be directed especially toward paying the cost of night-time cleaning of places where goods are sold freely.

Yakut President Appoints New KGB Chief

OW0105122692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 1 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yakut president Mikhail Nikolayev appointed Vladimir Balduyev chairman of the republican KGB. Until now Balduyev was interior minister.

Two months ago the previous chief of the KGB was transferred. The Russian ministry decided to appoint a new one, and it took a conversation between Nikolayev and Yeltsin to let the republic have its say on the appointment.

Yakut Parliament To Consider Language Law

OW0105122292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 01 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yakut parliament presidium decided to call another session of parliament on May 26 to discuss, among other issues, the bill on the republican languages, making Russian and Yakut official languages. For two years the parliament did not discuss it for fear of worsening ethnic tensions in the republic.

National Affairs

Security Service Uncovers 120 Foreign Spies

LD0105181192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1616 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—In the six months of its existence, Ukraine's Security Service (USS) has revealed, taken under control and neutralized 120 foreign military spies. According to information PF [POSTFACTUM] received at the USS press service, spies arrived in Ukraine among the flow of tourists and businessmen from the West. The press service information shows that the USS has also arrested 29 corrupt high officials and some leaders of the criminal armed units who participated in the division of areas of influence in the Crimea. According to the information received from the same source, in 1992 President Leonid Kravchuk has received from the USS 220 confidential reports, the Supreme Soviet—about 150, the Cabinet of Ministers—167. The USS analysts informed the republic's high officials and organs of supreme state power about the course of events in the Crimea, the Dniester region and the areas adjacent to Ukraine on the attempts to provoke violation of the Ukrainian territorial integrity on the export and embezzlement of armaments, on the construction of the Armed Forces on matters relating to the economic, sociopolitical and other spheres on the functioning of the currency and financial system, etc. In the same six months the USS officers have found and arrested 6 criminals who used fire arms to shoot at the deputies' dwelling apartments in the Sumy, Chernigov and Kirovograd regions. They have also been instrumental in 102 mafiosi being discovered and subsequently convicted. The USS has also ensured 30 clandestine shipments of nuclear shells. And yet the USS leadership does not find the service's activities sufficiently efficient. At least two major reasons for this have been cited: The service being nearly 50 per cent short of officers and what they described as the KGB-trail, which according to the USS leaders, will for yet a long time accompany the service both in mass consciousness and in the consciousness of the republic's leaders, ministries, departments, organizations, etc. As for the personnel shortage, the USS plans to take care of the problem in the earliest possible time, recruiting graduates of military academies and persons recommended by public organizations, specifically by Rukh.

Chief Dicusses Role of Organization

LD0105104992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Comments by Valeriy (?Malikov), head of the Kiev National Security Service; announcer read throughout]

[Text] Recently the Parliament of Ukraine endorsed the law on Security Service in Ukraine. At last, the activities of the mighty ministry which had long been considered a state in the state, and whose predecessor was responsible for many crimes, becomes controllable by Parliament and by law. Head of the Kiev Department of the National Security Service Valeriy (?Malikov) commented on the new (?tasks) this way:

First of all the Security Service of Ukraine differs significantly from its predecessor by its structure, by the staff, and by vested authorities. Its main functions derive from the key mission, which is building up a national Ukrainian state.

I want to emphasize on the fact that now, legal guarantees which determine the activities of our service are (word indistinct) and there is an efficient mechanism of its control. Our lawmakers proceed from the concept that in the state of law which we are building up in Ukraine, priority should be given to the individual and his or her rights.

Unlike the KGB, the National Security Service of Ukraine does not carry out ideological or political surveillance, just on the contrary. The law envisages certain guarantees against the use of secret services in the interests of any political party or a group. Our task is to protect the constitutional order in the country and promote its national interests as well as the rights and liberties of the Ukrainian citizens, said Valeriy (?Malikov).

With a drastic shift from the total control over the society to protection of human rights, the new Secret Service of Ukraine are very unlikely to get unemployed. Sixty police officers are involved in preventing economic crimes, says Valeriy (?Malikov):

The officers of the National Security Service of Ukraine have frustrated several deals which might have been detrimental to the interests of Ukraine in the field of foreign economic relations. Thus, for example, we disclosed an attempt of our local entrepreneurs to enter a cottage construction contract which turned out to be a bogus deal aimed at receiving super-profits in the Ukraine's market. We also denied our businessmen conclude several contracts with their foreign partners who wanted to sell obsolete technical equipment to some factories in Kiev. Due to our efforts, some productions dangerous to the environment were banned. Besides, together with Malaysia, the National Security Service prevented the drain of large quantities of consumer goods from Ukraine, said Valeriy (?Malikov), Head of the Kiev Department of the National Security Service.

Military counter-intelligence has become an important part of the activities of the National Security Service, but not only that, it is also fighting terrorism and sabotage, corruption and organized crime. In the recent few months the National Security Unit detected 12 crimes connected with illegal arms trade. It helped the country save several million rubles within a short period of time. Thus, slowly but surely, the successor of the KGB is acquiring a better name.

Assembly Urges Rejection of Crimean Referendum

LD0305170292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] An all-Ukrainian assembly under the motto: The Crimea with Ukraine took place in Simferopol on 2 May. Taking part were representatives of different democratic forces of Ukrainian, Russian, Crimean, Tatar and other nations. Voiced in their speeches in particular was a demand to the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea not to adopt a resolution on holding a referendumm as this decision would contradict the Constitution of Ukraine and the declaration on the state sovereignty of the Crimea. This demand was the first item of the resolution adopted at the assembly.

If the decision on holding the referendum will be adopted the representatives of the Crimean organizations of the People's Movement of Ukraine Rukh, the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Society Prosvita, the Crimean Tatar National Movement and others will put forth a demand on the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea as one which exceeds its plenary powers, and will demand the introduction on the territory of the peninsula a presidentail administration of Leonid Kravchuk, and up to new elections of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea.

Sevastopol Council To Decide on Referendum

OW0405103192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0943 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [4 May], the City Council of Sevastopol will consider the deputies' attitude to the referendum on the Crimea's independence.

More than 20 percent of the Sevastopol electors have signed the demand for holding the referendum (10 percent would be sufficient). Despite this, the city authorities are against the referendum, motivating their position by the fact that according to the Ukrainian president's decree, the Crimea was already put under the jurisdiction of Ukraine in March.

During the May holidays, local residents held meetings to demand once again that the Black Sea Fleet remain indivisible, that presidential rule be done away with in the city, that the city executive committee resume its work and that Yermakov be removed from the post of head of the city administration. Some of the deputies are urging to include these questions in the agenda of the City Council's session.

Black Sea Fleet Seen as Crimean Problem

LD0205015992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Many specialists consider that the Black Sea Fleet problem is primarily a Crimean problem; therefore, there is some foundation for supposing that before 5 May—that is, the day when the possibility of holding a Crimean referendum is to be discussed in Simferopol—those participating in the talks could possibly elect to take the so-called middle line.

If the Crimeans decide not to hold a referendum, then that will be a major success for Ukraine. If, however, they do decide to hold it, then the Russian leadership will also have to rack its brains to determine the Fleet's future fate. In this fashion, the argument about the Fleet could, in an instant, turn into an argument about the Crimea.

Republican Party Holds Third Congress in Kiev

Urges Secession From CIS

LD0105113492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 1 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Belov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 1 May—The third congress of the Ukrainian Republican Party (URP) began here today. The party has 12,000 members and is considered to be one of the influential parties in the political arena in Ukraine. In the course of the two days of the congress' work, more than 500 delegates representing regional organizations in Ukraine, as well as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Riga and Tyumen Oblast, will listen to reports, elect working bodies and a chairman of the party, and endorse a program of action.

According to a program of action adopted as a basis by the party council: "The URP considers that the main mission of the CIS—the civilized self-liquidation of the empire—has been completed, and the URP comes out for Ukraine's departure from the Commonwealth of Independent States."

Ends in Split

LD0205211892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1716 GMT 2 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—The third congress of the Ukrainian republican party has ended in a split. While speaking at the congress on May 2, Stepan Khmara, former deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party, declared that he left the party. This decision was made by him after he had learnt he was refused to be given an opportunity of delivering a co-report in the name of the radical wing of the Ukrainian Republican Party.

The guilt for possible consequences for Ukrainian Republican Party because of this move lays on those who create an atmosphere of intolerance and persecute the people who dare to have an opinion different from the viewpoint of the chairman and his supporters, Khmara underlined. Together with Khmara, 75 of his supporters

have left the congress. We have come to a conclusion that preservation of the best national and liberation traditions is possible only through quitting the membership in the Ukrainian Republican Party with setting up of a new organization on its basis, they said. The temporary name of this new party is National Radical Party.

The third congress of Ukrainian Republican Party has ended with election of the new chairman of the party. Mykhaylo Horyn, one of the co-chairmen of Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] movement, became the new chairman of the party. I have not given an agreement for a long time to become a candidate for the chairman and agreed only three days before the congress began, when it became known that Stepan Khmara can become the chairman, Mykhaylo Horyn told PF [POSTFACTUM]. The question of the post of the Rukh co-chairman, in Horyn's words, will be a subject for negotiations with the leadership of the Rukh. Levko Lukianenko was elected an honorable chairman of Ukrainian Republican Party.

Leader Sums Up Results

LD0305164392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] The Third Congress of the Ukrainian Republican Party finished its work in Kiev yesterday. As Mykhaylo Horyn, the present chairman of the party, noted at the press conference, the program of actions and the concept of the Ukrainian Republican Party were stated in the Congress documents. He noted that the Ukrainian Republican Party holds a centrist position in the political spectrum and that the way to becoming a member of the party was open for everyone, be it a farmer or an academician.

A number of documents was adopted at the congress, including documents on the political status of Ukraine, the economic situation in Ukraine, the ecological situation in the republic, and the army. A number of statements were also adopted.

Socialist Party Newspaper Being Published

LD0205015792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent V. Lyaskala; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The leader of the Ukrainian Socialist Party, Aleksandr Moroz, has presented the first edition of a new newspaper, TOVARISH, to journalists. This is the official organ of Ukrainian socialists. Its initial print run is 20,000. It is being published exclusively using party members donations. Under the paper's title is a motto: "For Socialism, Democracy, Progress." This April first edition is, of course, devoted to Lenin's anniversary and also the coming May Day holiday.

[Begin A.A. Moroz, chairman of the political council of the Ukrainian Socialist Party, recording] This holiday is not purely a party one as some people like to present it today. It is, nevertheless, the holiday of solidarity of working people. The main slogan, I think, is this: work, peace, justice. [end recording] [video shows paper being presented to journalists; front page has title TOVARISH, with a large picture of Lenin underneath]

Byelarus

Wildfires in Chernobyl-Contaminated Areas

LD0405120892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1048 GMT 4 May 92

[By BELTA correspondent Viktor Kotov for TASS]

[Text] Gomel (Byelarus), 4 May—There have been massive outbreaks of fire in Gomel Oblast (southeast Byelarus). In the last two days alone firemen have managed to extinguish about 100 fires.

The largest number of fires have been in the population centers contaminated by radiation following the Chernobyl accident, the inhabitants of which have long since been evacuated. In addition to the settlements, last year's grasses and forest tracts have also fed the fires.

The fires are coming just when the already difficult ecological situation has been acutely aggravated; substances containing radionuclides are being carried considerable distances, contaminating clean settlements and fields. Gomel Oblast is known to be one of the areas of the former USSR which suffered most from the Chernobyl accident in April 1986.

According to spokesmen of the oblast fire service, the fires are caused by "criminal negligence" of citizens working with fire and also by the recent hot and dry weather.

Demonstration at Independence Square Marks 1 May

LD0105165792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The labor holiday in Byelarus took place under the banner of protecting the rights of citizens to humane living conditions and the possibility of receiving money not as a minimum benefit for existing but of earning it with dignity. The people who gathered on Independence Square honored with a minute's silence the memory of their comrades who died as a result of on the job accidents. The Byelarus Federation of Unions intends to ensure that the Supreme Soviet adopts a law on the defense of labor so as to prevent future victims.

Government Unable To Afford Pay Increases

OW0105155192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 1 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A parliamentary resolution on increasing the minimum wages to 1000 roubles, that is almost doubling them, came into force in Byelarus today.

However the treasury has no money to implement that resolution, First Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myansnikovich told the Minsk city council.

According to him, "all prices have to be raised by at least 30% to get the required funds". M. Myasnikovich described the present bread and milk prices as "purely symbolic" and said that his government intends to raise them in May or June.

According to M. Myasnikovich, because of the aggravating economic crisis the Byelarusian Government will have to freeze some social programs in the near future.

Over 30,000 People Employed by Private Sector

PM0305143992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[BELAPAN report: "Privatization in Byelarus"]

[Text] Leonid Kozik, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Economic Reform, has presented certificates to the leaders of 39 privatized enterprises.

According to figures from the Byelarusian Committee for State Property, more than 30,000 people in the republic are now employed by privatized enterprises. The privatized enterprises are called people's collectives.

National Bank Intends To Issue Settlement Notes

LD0105172192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Byelarus is about to issue its national money. In connection with the shortage of cash, the republic's bank has announced its intention to issue settlement notes. Specific ways of bringing them into circulation has for the time being not been determined. But it is possible that in June citizens will be buying provisions not for rubles but for settlement notes, RIA reports.

Plans for Formation of Armed Forces Reported

OW0405101992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0943 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reliable sources in the Byelarusian defence ministry, the formation of the republic's armed forces will have two stages. The first one will last for two years during which a material and technical base strong enough to ensure the armed forces' self-sufficiency will be created. The second stage will result in the formation of the Byelarusian armed forces and in cuts in personnel. The Byelarusian army is expected to have not more than 90,000 men.

According to the draft military doctrine of Byelarus, the republic's armed forces will have land, air and anti-aircraft forces.

Most of the officers will be trained in Byelarus; pilots and flight technicians at CIS military schools, and financiers and logistics personnel at civilian higher educational establishments.

Sources in the Byelarusian defence ministry also informed IF [INTERFAX] that soon a tank division will move to Byelarus from Dresden. The families of the division officers will live in apartment blocks which are being built with Germany's financial backing.

UN Delegation Arrives on Official Visit

LD0205192192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A delegation from the United Nations is on an official visit to the capital of the Byelarus Republic. The main aim of the visit is to open a UN mission in Minsk. Leonid Sviridov reports:

[Sviridov] This is the first official visit by a UN delegation to the capital of the Byelarus Republic. Mr. Henke, the director of the department for the UN Development Program in Europe and the CIS countries, and Mr. Sanbar, the director of UN Information Centers head the delegation.

Talks commenced on 29 April. The delegation met Mikhail Myasnikovich, the first vice premier of the Byelarus cabinet. Sergey Ling, the vice premier directly in charge of the talks, kindly agreed to comment upon the progress of the talks. In an interview with a Radio Rossii correspondent, he stated that during the preliminary meetings in New York and during discussion of the issue with the administrator of the UN Development Program, it was proposed that a UN Development Program mission be opened in Minsk. It will be occupied with the provision of technical aid and the training of cadres and will have the special means at its disposal to carry out these aims.

However, Sergey Ling stated that events unfolded in such a way that Mr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, demonstrated an interest in this, and now the opening of a UN mission is being discussed which will also be a development program mission. This is a conceptually new approach.

The vice premier of the Byelarus cabinet was present on two occasions at sittings of the Council of Directors of the UN Development Program. The leaders of the Byelarus delegation to attend the Council of Directors which is to take place in Geneva in May have been confirmed. Sergey Ling himself believes that the way in which events are developing is running in the republic's favor. First of all Byelarus has achieved acknowledgement by and inclusion in the system at the first sitting of the Council of Directors, and then a resolution was adopted according to which Byelarus becomes one of the countries entitled to receive UN technical aid, and the third meeting in Minsk will probably end with the ratification of the agreement on the opening of a mission then at the council in Geneva, specific programs for providing aid to the republic of Byelarus will be examined.

During the first round of talks, issues pertaining to the opening of the mission were discussed. It is essential to guarantee the legal status of the mission, to find a building for it to occupy and to hire people to work there. I would like to point out that this will be the first UN mission in a CIS country.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Romania

LD0105231692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] An agreement was signed today in Bucharest between the governments of Romania and Byelarus on economic and trade relations, and on scientific and technical cooperation. In addition, a protocol was signed on the exchange of goods for 1992.

These documents, which were signed by Fota, Romanian minister of trade and tourism, and Radkevich, chairman of the Byelarus State Committee on Foreign Economic Relations, lay down the legal framework for broadening and deepening bilateral contacts in all areas of economic activity.

The ministers said that in order to broaden and improve bilateral contacts, a joint Romanian and Byelarus Government commission will soon be created, and economic representations will be opened in Minsk and Bucharest.

Moldova

Dniester Region Seeks Independent Status

LD0205090192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, has declared that the Dniester region will maintain the cease-fire with Moldova and seek the status of an independent state within Moldova.

Armed Confrontation in Dniester Region Continues

OW0205160392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reports from the Dniester conflict zone (in the east of Moldova) say that on Saturday [2 May] there was intensive shooting between the Moldovan police and Dniester guardsmen with the use of grenade-launchers and mortars. The day before, on May 1, a mine went off near the village of Cosnita killing 4 Cossacks.

On Sunday, May 3, the funeral of deceased deputy of the Dniester republic parliament, member of the republican government Nikolai Ostapenko will take place in Tiraspol. He died April 30 of wounds received during an attack on his car by unknown terrorists.

Meanwhile, the quatrilateral observer commission (Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine) approved a make-up of the conciliatory commission which includes representatives from the government and parliament of

Moldovan and the government of the Dniester republic. Talks are expected to resume on May 5.

Sporadic Exchanges of Gunfire in Dubossary

LD0405120392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] The day was calm in the eastern regions of Moldova, where the Moldovan police confront the armed units of the Russian-speaking population of Dniester. The conflicting sides are observing the cease-fire agreement in principle. Sporadic exchanges of fire were registered in the vicinity of the city of Dubossary. There have been no reports about the casualties. The conciliatory commission on a peaceful settlement of the conflict is to resume its work tomorrow.

Dniester Region Increases Arms Production

LD0305155792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] The Dniester region is increasing arms production for the republic's defense. In particular the production of Alazan type missile launchers which are installed on Kamaz vehicles has been set up. At the Kirov factory the manufacture of home-made APC's [armored personnel carriers] has begun.

Dniester Region To Set Up Television Service

LD0305112492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] A decision has been made to create a television service in the Dniester region. Gennadiy Varfomoleyev reports by phone.

[Varfomoleyev] The adoption of the decision by the Dniester region government on the creation of its own television service was dictated by the need to escape from the information blockade. On 1 January Moldova halted transmission of the Russian TV channel and this forced the Dniester region leadership to accelertate the creation of its own television service.

Recently a group of workers from the future Dniester Television returned from Moscow where they spent a study trip at Russian TV and Ostankino Channel 1. In the next few days equipment and television technology will arrive in Tiraspol. Dniester Television will cover the whole republic's territory via a satellite television signal reception system and radio relay lines which are still to be built.

As of 1 June, Dniester Television will transmit the Russian TV channel. However, for the moment this will done using a commercial television cable network. In the future it is planned to transmit Ukrainian television as well. If Moldova ceases transmission of Ostankino Channel 1—and such threats have already come from Chisinau—then Dniester Television will take this function upon itself.

With the introduction in July-August this year of its own television the Dniester population will not feel its inferiority and isolation from the CIS states. Tiraspol, Gennadiy Varfolomeyev for Radio Rossii information service.

Opposition Supports Snegur's Approach to Dniester

AU0205143392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0829 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 2/5/1992—The president of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur expressed in a meeting with the leadership of the opposition Christian Democratic Popular Front his pleasure for their acceptance to take part in his current consultations with social and political parties and forces. In the hard times that the country must cope with, all opinions, including of the opposition, should be considered, he said.

The Front's Chairman Mircea Druc said his party supported the executive in its effort to end the conflict and solve the social and political problems in the districts on the left bank of the Dniester. He added that he hoped the state of emergency would be observed. On the question of the Dniester region, the front reiterated its option that every avenue be used to step up negotiations with Russia so as to strike an agreement under which the 14th Army the be withdrawn from the Republic of Moldova, economic reforms be achieved more speedily, the national currency be issued and privatisation be pursued at a convenient pace, but not before the question of citizenship is solved and the border with Ukraine is set and Moldova leaves the CIS and shifts its economic relations to the West, while retaining its links with the East at a strictly necessary level. The front also said it supported the president's initiative to speed up the signature of the treaty with Romania which is largely seen as apt to overcome the economic crisis.

President Snegur also welcomed some specific proposals for reform, better international political activity, and better foreign economic relations, the education of the masses and solutions to cultural problems in general, ways to counter the war of disinformation waged by Moscow pro-imperial forces, more flexibility in the minorities policy, enforcement of the language law and a firm stance to Romanophobia, MOLDOVA PRES says.

Unification With Romania Referendum Sought

LD0205174492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1315 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)— It remained relatively calm in the first days of May in areas of recent confrontation between forces of Moldova and the Dniester region. As the press services of the Moldovan Internal Ministry and the Dniester region told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today, steps to restore peace were taken on both sides.

At the same time more active demands are heard in Moldova to hold a referendum on unification of this republic with Romania. For example, an appeal of 3,000 Moldovan soldiers to Moldovan President Mircea Snegur was published by the media today, which stresses that a delay with holding a referendum contradicted Moldovan national interests.

Observers think that the referendum issue will be discussed at a session of the republic's parliament. It is to open on 12 May.

Snegur Signs Decree To Combat Corruption

LD0105151292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2042 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Chisinau, May 1 MOLDOVA-PRES—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur signed on Thursday [30 April] a decree to combat corruption in government bodies.

The decree says that corruption in state structures undermines the emerging democratic structure of society, discredits the state apparatus and interferes with economic reforms. The coordination council to combat corruption is formed at the Moldovan president.

The decree prohibits employees of the state apparatus to engage in entrepreneurial activities and to use their posts in ways not envisaged by law for encouraging entrepreneurial activities and to receive rewards, services and benefits in return. They have no right to combine paid jobs, aside from scientific and creative activity and tuition. Nor have they a right to engage in business through middlemen.

Snegur Says Ukraine Essential to CIS Unity

LD0205173592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] If Ukraine refuses to be part of the Commonwealth, there can be no talk about the future of the CIS, said Moldovan President Mircea Snegur in an interview published on 2 May in an independent Lvov newspaper, ZA VOLNUYU UKRAINU. The confrontation in the Dniester region and in other hot spots of the CIS is not normal but it is rather a consequence of political ambitions of separatist leaders, who are unfortunately supported by the former center, the Moldovan president believes. The majority of Moldovans are against uniting with Romania, preferring the existence of two independent states. This information comes from RIA agency.

Joint Moldovan-Romanian Olympic Team Discussed

AU0105172392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1259 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 1/05/1992—On April 30 the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur received a delegation of Romania's Ministry of Youth and Sports headed by Minister Ioan Moldovan, now on an official visit to Moldova. During the interview opinions were exchanged on the development of the collaboration between the two Romanian states in the field of youth, sports, and tourism problems. Ioan Moldovan formulated the proposal that Romania's national team due to enter the summer Olympic games in Barcelona also include Moldovan athletes who will not be included in the united team of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Moldovan president emphasized that the republic's officials would grant all support in developing the fruitful collaboration between the two ministries.

Kazakhstan

KGB Chief Denies Warheads Sold to Iran

LD0405111792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Danshin]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 4 May—Kazakhstan KGB Chairman Bulat Bayekenov has denounced as just another hoax a recent article in the British newspaper, THE EUROPEAN, alleging that Kazakhstan sold two nuclear warheads to Iran. The article was followed by other Western media outlets. This is a mischievous report, Bulat Bayekenov says, and is a disinformation plot by foreign secret services aimed at poisoning relations between Kazakhstan and Russia. Also clear is a desire to discredit the moderate and realistic policies of President Nursultan Nazarbayev and to provoke speculation on the eve of his visit to the United States.

The Kazakhstan KGB chairman expressed his full agreement with the denial of the allegations issued by the press office of the Russian external intelligence service and with its description of the allegations as groundless. Kazakhstan's position regarding nuclear weapons is absolutely clear, Bulat Bayekenov stressed, and has on numerous occasions been articulated by President Nursultan Nazarbayev and other republican leaders. Kazakhstan takes a highly responsible approach to honoring its nuclear nonproliferation obligations and is willing to accede to the relevant international accords.

Given the current conditions, the Kazakhstan KGB chairman said, one of the aims of his secret service is to oversee nuclear installations and stockpiles and avert in good time possible leaks of nuclear materials and technologies.

Government To Keep Nuclear Arms for 15 Years

OW0205023492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 1 May 92

[From evening newscast]

[Text] President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, one of former Soviet republics, in an exclusive interview with NHK, said that Kazakhstan would retain strategic nuclear weapons for at least 15 years. In the interview, President Nazarbayev said that Russia—which is to accept and destroy the nuclear weapons—is not ready to accept nuclear weapons from Kazakhstan due to financial and technical reasons. He then said that his country would continue to hold strategic nuclear weapons for at least 15 years until the destruction of the nuclear weapons can be assured.

According to Western data, it is estimated that Kazakhstan holds 1,150 strategic nuclear warheads and 650 tactical nuclear warheads. It has been agreed that all nuclear weapons in the republics, except for Russia, will be placed under joint control and eventually be relinquished to Russia. However in Kazakhstan, there is growing distrust of the Yeltsin administration concerning Russia's moves towards establishing its own army, and strong voices among the parliament and people have expressed the opinion that Kazakhstan should hold its own nuclear weapons. It is believed that the president made such remarks in response to these growing concerns by the parliament and the public, and that his statement reflects Kazakhstan's policy of keeping a close watch on future moves by the Russian Government.

Since the United States is urging Kazakhstan to place its nuclear weapons under Russian control as a precondition for economic assistance, it is most likely that the president's remarks will create a stir in both republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as other nations.

Japanese Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Discusses Ties, Nuclear Proliferation

LD0205130192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 2 May 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Vladimir Akimov for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 2 May—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe today discussed ways of expanding and deepening mutually advantageous economic ties. The Japanese diplomat is in the capital of Kazakhstan on a short working visit.

The head of the Japanese Foreign Policy Department informed Nursultan Nazarbayev of Japan's position on the "northern territories" and voiced anxiety over problems on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, confirming his state's commitment to continue to adhere strictly to the proclaimed principles: not to produce or possess nuclear weapons and not to import them onto its territory.

Nursultan Nazarbayev commented that Kazakhstan did not come into possession of nuclear weapons "of its own accord" and that it is "prepared to join the 1968 nuclear nonproliferation treaty and to seek the complete elimination of nuclear weapons together with other states."

Nursultan Nazarbayev reaffirmed his invitation to Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to visit Kazakhstan at a time convenient to him.

The Japanese foreign minister left for Moscow the same day.

Asks Kazakhstan To Sign Treaty

OW0205132692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1252 GMT 2 May 92

[Excerpts] Alma-Ata, May 2 KYODO—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said Saturday [2 May] he understands Japan's decades-long call for the return of four Russian-held islands, Japanese officials said. Nazarbayev made the remark in a two-hour meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe shortly after he arrived in Alma-Ata on an eight-day tour of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

He said, "although the issue is a bilateral one between Japan and Russia, I understand the concern of the Japanese people (over the territorial issue)," the officials said.

Nazarbayev was quoted as saying, "I hope a peace treaty between Japan and Russia would be concluded as soon as possible to resolve all the issues." The Kazakh president promised Watanabe that he will convey his stance to Russian President Boris Yeltsin when he meets Yeltsin in the future. [passage omitted]

In other discussions with Nazarbayev, Watanabe called on Kazakhstan to scrap nuclear arsenals deployed in its territory and to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Japanese officials said. Nazarbayev replied that Kazakhstan has no alternative but to continue to possess nuclear weapons, saying he wants Russia, the United States, and China to guarantee the security of Kazakhstan, they said.

Nazarbayev showed a negative stance toward joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Japanese officials said. Kazakhstan is estimated to possess 10 percent of the nuclear warheads once held by the former Soviet Union.

Nazarbayev said he will tell U.S. President George Bush about the Kazakh security policy when he visits the United States in the middle of May.

Nazarbayev denied a news report that his country contacted Iran about a transfer of nuclear arsenals.

On bilateral relations, Watanabe pledged that he would consider sending a delegation of Japanese economic experts to the central Asian country. Watanabe also promised Japan would support the entry of Kazakhstan to the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB). [passage omitted]

Further on Nuclear Proliferation

OW0205130592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 2 May 92

[Report by correspondent Eijiro Ishimura in Alma-Ata; from the "NHK News" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, now visiting the CIS, today met with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and called on Kazakhstan to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as a nonnuclear nation.

[Begin Ishimura recording] Kazakhstan has the second largest land mass in the CIS after Russia, and it is a major Central Asian republic that controls strategic nuclear weapons along with Russia, Ukraine, and Byelarus. Mr. Watanabe became the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Kazakhstan, and he held talks with Mr. Nazarbayev today at the presidential office in Alma-Ata.

Mr. Watanabe told the president that it is important to reduce the number of nuclear powers under the new international order, noting that Japan strongly hopes Kazakhstan joins the NPT as a nonnuclear nation.

Mr. Nazarbayev replied that the Kazakh Government has previously announced that the nation will become a nonnuclear power. He added, however, that it will remain a nuclear power on a temporary basis and will discuss the matter with the United States and other concerned countries. Mr. Watanabe also briefed Kazakh officials on Japan's claim to the Northern Territories, and he requested Kazakhstan's assistance in resolving the problem. Mr. Nazarbayev replied that he is aware of Japan's concern and that he will advise Russian President Boris Yeltsin to conclude a peace treaty with Japan as soon as possible. On the whole, Mr. Nazarbayev showed a very prudent stance on the issue.

Mr. Watanabe will return to Moscow late tonight Japanese time, and tomorrow he will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in a bid to achieve a breakthrough in the Northern Territories dispute. [end recording]

Nazarbayev, Watanabe Discuss Kurils

OW0205092292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Alma-Ata, May 2 KYODO—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev showed understanding Saturday [2 May] for Japan's long-standing call for the return to Japan of four Russian-held islands, Japanese officials said.

Nazarbayev, in a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, urged both Japan and Russia to settle the decades-long territorial dispute and conclude a peace treaty, the officials said. The Kazakh president told Watanabe that he would convey his position to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Watanabe is currently on an eight-day tour of Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. In Kyrgyzstan earlier this week, Watanabe met with President Askar Akayev and Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva and agreed to work for strengthened bilateral ties through economic and personnel exchanges.

Watanabe is scheduled to confer with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Sunday and Monday in a

regular bilateral foreign ministerial meeting. He will also talk Monday with Yeltsin, who is scheduled to visit Japan in September. The talks are expected to focus on the territorial dispute over Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomais, located east of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido. Japan has long called for an early return of the four islands, which were seized by former Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

Russian-Kazakh Agreement on Baykonur Viewed

LD0305091492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2010 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Yesterday Boris Yeltsin visited Plesetsk Cosmodrome which evidently is to become a real Russian cosmodrome, according to the president. The thing is that Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan president, has given to understand that Baykonur Cosmodrome should not be a launch pad for either military or space rockets. In this regard alterations to our space policy are possible.

[Correspondent P. Fil] Soviet rockets were launched into space from two main cosmodromes: Baykonur in Kazakhstan and Plesetsk in Russia. Where will CIS space rockets set off from? Visiting the Plesetsk launch pad Boris Yeltsin spoke in favor of its further development, mentioning that large amounts of money are necessary for this. However in the opinion of specialists...

[Yu. Melov, deputy director of the Russian Space Agency] ...the number that was mentioned, in the area of 10 billion rubles, this of course is a minimum figure. And if a cosmodrome is to be developed sufficiently well there, then with this the costs will grow accordingly.

[Fil] The fate of the former Union's main cosmic range, Baykonur, is not clear, at least not until Russia and Kazakhstan agree on the procedure for using it. It is necessary like air, it is necessary for everyone. If Kazakhstan announces that Baykonur belongs to it on purely territorial grounds, then it will turn into a dying stone jungle in the middle of the desert needed by no one. Only rockets of a certain type produced only in the CIS can launch from here. And therefore one of the proposed ways out—the hiring out of launch pads to third party countries—is completely ruled out. Kazakhstan will not have its own rockets for a long time, for a whole number of reasons.

What will the possible loss of Baykonur bring to Russia and CIS cosmonautry as a whole? Booster rockets of the Proton type will cease to fly into space, they take off only from Baykonur, and therefore the road for cargoes for the orbital station will be closed. It will be necessary to abandon the station itself. The more or less important launches from Plesetsk, which is much further than Baykonur from the most convenient place for space launches—the equator—will demand such energy expenditure that it will simply be disadvantageous to deliver cargoes into orbit. In a word, if Kazakhstan and Russia do not agree then along the way there will only be problems, and the constant development of cosmonautry will slow down.

[Melov] There is only one way out: a way out via political decisions. An agreement must be signed between Russia and Kazakhstan. We are preparing such a document just now and on the 15th, at the Tashkent meeting, we will give our president, together with Nazarbayev, the possibility of signing this document.

Kyrgyzstan

Japanese Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Watanabe Arrives, Meets President

LD3004155192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0805 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek, 30 Apr (TASS)—After arriving in Kyrgyzstan on a visit, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe had a conversation today with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev. They discussed the political situation in Kyrgyzstan and establishing economic and other links with Japan.

Tomorrow, the guest will meet with countrymen living in Bishkek. At a special ceremony, he will hand over a document on granting humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan; he will take part in talks with President Akayev and Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva on cooperation, and the possibility of granting economic aid to the republic. The Japanese minister will depart for Alma-Ata on 2 May.

Seeks Aid in Kurils Issue

OW0105125492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1232 GMT 1 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Bishkek on Friday [1 May] President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan and Japan's Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe had a confidential meeting. IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent learned from circles close to the President that the Japanese Foreign Minister raised the issue of "northern territories" and sought support from Askar Akayev as an authoritative politician capable of influencing Russia's attitude to resolving the problem of 4 South Kuril islands. A. Akayev said that he is in favor of resolving this problem fairly.

The head of Japanese diplomacy also displayed interest in Kyrgyzstan's relations with Russia and adjoining Central Asian states, in prospects for preserving the CIS and in the possibility of forming an alliance of 4 countries: Russia, Byelarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Besides, Friday saw talks between Japan's Foreign Minister and his local counterpart, Roza Otumbayeva. According to R. Otumbayeva, in its foreign policy Kyrgyzstan proceeds from the need of its development as a secular, democratic and neutral state oriented, because of its geopolitical position, to both eastern and western countries.

Agrees To Strengthen Ties

OW0105144392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1419 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Bishkek, May 1 KYODO—Japan and Kyrgyzstan agreed Friday [1 May] to work for strengthened bilateral ties through economic and personnel exchanges, Japanese officials said.

The accord was reached in a series of meetings between Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev and Foreign Minister Rosa Otunbayeva.

Watanabe promised that Tokyo will make international efforts to have Kyrgyzstan included as a recipient of Official Development Assistance from developed countries, the officials said.

He also supported Kyrgyzstan joining the Asian Development Bank, a Manila-based financial organization which assists member states in coordinating economic policies and gives technical assistance in development projects, they said.

The Japanese foreign minister told Akayev that Tokyo will train Kyrgyz diplomats in Japan.

Akayev, in response to an invitation from Watanabe, expressed hopes to visit Japan at an early date, the officials said.

Watanabe relayed Tokyo's intention to dispatch an agricultural expert to serve as an adviser as part of Japan's efforts to assist Kyrgyzstan in the agricultural field.

He then promised to study the sending of a study team from the government and industrial sectors to look into possibilities for Japanese investment in the former Soviet republic in central Asia.

Watanabe again briefed the Kyrgyz leaders about Japan's position in a long-standing territorial dispute with Russia and Akayev called for a solution as early as possible on the basis of law and justice, the officials said.

The president pledged his efforts to help achieve a settlement of the territorial dispute over the four Russian-held islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomais.

In a visit to Paris and Bonn earlier this week, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa sought support from France and Germany for an early return of the four islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, which were seized by former Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

During his talks with Akayev, Watanabe presented the Kyrgyzstan government with 800 kilograms of powdered milk and 1,700 kilograms of medical supplies as part of Japan's emergency assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Foreign Minister Otunbayeva told Watanabe that Kyrgyzstan is located at the boundary between Europe and Asia and explained its foreign policy of building up ties with Asian countries, particularly between China and Japan.

Watanabe left Japan on Wednesday for an eight-day tour of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Russia. He arrived here from Moscow on Thursday.

He is scheduled to confer with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Sunday and Monday in a regular bilateral foreign ministerial meeting. The previous session took place in Tokyo in March.

Watanabe will also talk Monday with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is scheduled to visit Japan in September.

Humanitarian Aid Arrives

OW0205061992 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1300 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe is currently visiting the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in the Central Asia. At talks between Foreign Minister Watanabe and President Akayev on 30 April, various issues, including the political situation in Kyrgyzstan and the development of economic relations between the two nations, were discussed. Foreign Minister Watanabe highly rated Kyrgyz leaders' line of democratic reform and said that "the purpose of my visit is to grasp the problems facing Kyrgyzstan before providing practical humanitarian aid."

On the same day, the first plane from Tokyo carrying humanitarian goods arrived in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. At a meeting today, Foreign Minister Watanabe and President Akayev are expected to discuss the issue of future cooperation. Foreign Minister Watanabe is scheduled to leave Bishkek on 2 May.

Bishkek Fails To Celebrate May Day

OW0105115692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 01 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] For the first time ever Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, is not celebrating the May Day. None of the public organizations, parties and movements, including trade unions, lodged official applications for demonstrations and rallies.

Akayev Visit to PRC Conflicts With Summit

LD0105161892 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in English 2305 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] As it was (?disclosed) from the 12th till the 16th of May President Akayev will be on his official visit in China. That is why he will not be able to participate in the meeting of the heads of state of the CIS on 16th in Tashkent.

Government To Sign Trade Agreement With U.S.

OW0405123792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan and the U.S. intend to sign an agreement on trade and economic cooperation envisaging the granting of the most favoured nation's status to Kyrgyzstan.

Chairman of the Kyrgyz State Committee for Foreign Trade Askar Sarygulov told IF [INTERFAX] that these agreements may stimulate an intensive inflow of American investments.

Iranian Delegation Visits Bishkek

LD0105123492 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran has been on a visit to Kyrgyzstan. It was led by (?Tahir Nayati), adviser to Iran's minister of culture. The guests met heads of several ministries and departments. During their meeting with Culture Minister Daniyal Nazarmatov, the Iranian representatives (?invited Kyrgyzstan to take part in) an international exhibition of national applied art [word indistinct] works which will take place 5-12 May this year in Tehran. This sort of fair is held every year and around 100 states from around the world take part in it.

Tajikistan

Ozodi, Shakhidon Square Rallies in Dushanbe

Conciliatory Commission Formed

OW0105154692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 1 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its Friday's [1 May] session Tajikistan's parliament decided to form a trilateral commission involving government officials, spokesmen for the opposition and representatives of the meeting held in support of the authorities. The head of Tajik Muslims Kazi Khadzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda also agreed to join the commission.

Kh. Turadzhonzoda said that the highest Muslim clergy in Tajikistan is willing to join the conciliatory commission on condition that it will include spokesmen for all opposition parties and movements.

The conciliatory commission is to begin its work on Saturday.

Besides, Tajikistan's parliament addressed an appeal to all political forces in Afghanistan, urging them to achieve civic accord.

Parliament Appeals to UN

LD0105183?92 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1611 GMT 1 May 92

[By KHOVAR TAJIK news agency correspondent Mukhiddin Umarov—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe May 1 TASS—The Tajik Supreme Soviet has decided to introduce direct presidential rule and give the president constitutional powers to protect the republican independence and normalize the situation, says an appeal sent by the Tajik parliament to U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus Ghali.

The Tajik leadership has used all means to stabilize the political situation in the republic and its capital, says the appeal.

"The republican president and the government for a month searched for ways to achieve mutual understanding with the opposition. Practically all the opposition demands, including the resignation of the republican supreme soviet chairman accepted under psychological and physical pressure of the opposition, were satisfied for the sake of peace and calm life of Tajik peoples", notes the document.

Still rallies of supporters and opponents of the legitimate government have not stopped on two Dushanbe squares, creating an explosion-prone situation.

The presidential rule was introduced on Friday [1 May]. The appeal stresses "the temporary character of this step within the framework of international basic laws and democratic principles" and expresses the hope the U.N. secretary-general "will give the international community precise and truthful information on Tajik developments".

The Tajik parliament expressed agreement to receive a U.N. representative to acquaint himself with the situation in Tajikistan.

Muslim 'Persecution' Viewed

LD0205125692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1136 GMT 2 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—Opposition demands resignation of Rakhman Nabiyev, Tajikistan's president.

This is announced in an official declaration issued by opposition during the night of May 1. While speaking at a press-conference of the Kozi Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda and opposition parties' leaders which took place late at night on May 1 at the spiritual management of Tajikistan's Muslims (Kaziat), this declaration was read by Shodmon Yusupov, chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan.

According to opposition, the demand of President Nabiyev's resignation was caused, among other things, by introduction of president's rule at the 14th closed session of the republic's Supreme Soviet on April 29. On the basis of the decree of the president, president's guards unit began to be set up from the people who gathered on Ozodi Square in front of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet. The guards will receive arms and military machinery. The number of the president's special forces is assessed from 400 to 3,000 people. This unit will obey to the president and to the national security committee headed by Safarali Kenjayev. President Nabiyev has stopped to be a guarantor of stability and unity of the Tajik nation—opposition's declaration stresses.

We have got facts confirming president's participation in setting up of the many-thousand meeting for support of the government and Kenjayev, said at the press-conference Davlat Usmon, deputy chairman of Islamic Rebirth Party. The Kozi of Tajikistan speaking to journalists told them about cases of the believers' persecution in Khudzhand and Kulyab. In Kulyab two mosques which are under the jurisdiction of the republic's Kaziat are being besieged. The believers defend the mosques with arms in hands. In Dangari district of Kulyab region, the mosque's dean was brought together with his family and home things to a dump lorry and carried outside the town where he was thrown on the roadside. In Khudzhand the authorities set up meetings of the working people with demands of the kozi's resignation and the republican Kaziat's separation from the spiritual management of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Besides, they demanded separation of Leninabad's regional mosques from Republic's Kaziat.

The authorities citing the republic's independence would like to have a puppet Kaziat, Turadzhonzoda stressed.

In this case, following their strife for independence, I have proposed them to go out of the Commonwealth and the ruble zone. In Turadzhonzoda's words, the republican Kaziat's separation from the spiritual management of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan means that 3 million Tajiks of Uzbekistan should be transferred to our spiritual management, whereas one and a half million of Uzbeks of Tajikistan should go out of this .

Through this move, Tajikistan's authorities will bring dissidence in the Muslims' masses on the national and territorial basis and will sow the seeds of the war, Turadzhonzoda said.

Various items of cold steel and firearms were shown to the journalists who were present at the press-conference. The arms were taken by the opposition's security service from the Kulyab regional representatives who tried to bring them to the opposition's meeting. In the pedestrian subway near Shokhidon Square, the opposition's security service has blocked an attempt of a grenade being discharged in a crowded place. The detained person was Dilshod Kholov, 11 class pupil, a citizen of Kulyab. He disclosed at the press-conference that he and five more persons were ordered to discharge grenades at the opposition meeting at Ozodi Square, for a reward of 1,000 rubles. After the press-conference, Shodmon Yusupov, chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan told PF [POSTFACTUM]: Opposition will begin to carry out decisive actions against President Nabiyev and his team. Mr Yusupov does not exclude a possibility of the armed actions.

Nabiyev Forms 'Special Brigade'

OW0205140792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conciliatory commission formed yesterday (May 1) at the decision of the Tajik parliament and consisting of members of government and participants in two rallies (a pro- and antigovernment one) which have been continuously going on in Dushanbe for weeks has had its first meeting in the republic's capital today. Vice-President Nazulov Dustov said in parliament today that the meeting was constructive and would apparently result in an agreement taking the edge off the confrontation.

Meanwhile, at the pro-government rally on Ozodi Square, mullah Haydar Sharifzodah, the chief Muslim official of Kulab Region, called on the authorities to give weapons to those present at the rally to enable them to defend themselves against those holding the pro-opposition rally on Shakhidon Square.

At a press conference yesterday opposition leaders showed hand grenades and cold-steel items which, they claimed, had been taken away from "instigators from Ozodi Square who had come to Shakhidon Square."

Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev has issued a decree on an additional battalion to be formed and incorporated in the Special Brigade. In doing this Nabiyev was exercising his powers under the law on temporary presidential rule passed by the Tajik parliament on Thursday April 30.

The battalion is to be formed by the Tajik Defense Committee and the republic's Military Commissariat within a fortnight. The decree also instructs the Dushanbe City Executive Committee to provide premises for the battalion within five days.

Col. Burikhon Jabirov has been appointed commander of the battalion.

The Special Brigade is directly controlled by the President and will apparently act as a national guard corps.

Yesterday (May 1) the Tajik parliament approved the text of a letter to UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus Ghali explaining the reasons for giving the President additional powers.

"The President's new powers naturally mean temporary restrictions on the citizens' rights although sanctioned by the existing legislation," the letter reads, in particular. "But we people's deputies of the Republic of Tajikistan maintain that there is no other way to protect the interests of the Republic." The letter stresses the temporary character of the measure (presidential rule is to last for six months) and states the authorities' willingness to receive an envoy from the Secretary-General in order to give him more detailed information on events in the republic.

Nabiyev has issued another decree raising the minimum monthly wage throughout the Tajik economy to 700 rubles and increasing by an average factor of 2.5 the salaries of employees at establishments financed from the republic's budget.

Opposition Refuses Presidential Council

LD0305083292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0710 GMT 3 May 92

[By TIA KHOVAR correspondent Galina Gridneva for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 3 May—Representatives of the opposition are refusing to join the Presidential Council of Tajikistan as they consider the establishment of such a structure is "an attempt by the authorities to prolong totalitarian rule in the republic and to break up the democratic movement." This is what Shodmon Yusufov, the chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan, told a correspondent from the KHOVAR Agency. The Presidential Council was established on 2 May in a decree by Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev.

Shodmon Yusufov has emphasized that "the leaders of the opposition only learned about their participation on this council from the local evening news bulletin". In his words, the opposition has not changed its slogans and as before, is calling for the resignation of President Nabiyev given that "he is not capable of resolving the prolonged political conflict in the republic nor of bringing ethnic reconciliation to the people of Tajikistan". In his view the temporary state council is the same sort of consolidatory force as the one currently operating in Georgia.

Regarding demands for the resignation of the Kazi (the head) of the Tajikistan Muslims, Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda, Shodmon Yusufov has stated that "this issue falls neither within the competence of the president nor of the parliament, and can only be resolved by the people themselves". As is already known, a decision has already been adopted in the republic regarding the holding of elections on an alternative basis in May to elect the head of the Muslim clergy.

Dushanbe Garrison Remains Neutral

LD0305085192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0750 GMT 3 May 92

[By TIA KHOVAR correspondent Galina Gridneva for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 3 May—"Servicemen are taking no part in the internal political conflict between the opposition and government supporters and are strictly adhering to a policy of neutrality", Colonel Vyacheslav Zabolotnyy, head of the Dushanbe garrison, stated, speaking yesterday evening on national television. He emphatically rejected the rumors being spread in Shakhidon Square by the opposition that weapons had been issued from the garrison's military armories to those taking part in a rally of government supporters.

At the same time the colonel stressed that the garrison's leaders possess information about repeated attempts by unknown individuals to get into the armories and also to bribe military guards with a view to acquiring weapons. All these provocative attempts have been resolutely stopped, Vyacheslav Zabolotnyy stated.

The head of the Dushanbe garrison also rejected a claim by Kazi Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda at an opposition news conference that he had facts about a loss of weapons from the armories of one of the service units located in Kulyab Oblast. According to Vyacheslav Zabolotnyy "the rumors being spread are nothing but an attempt by certain political forces to bring the people and the Army into collision, draw the military into the internal political conflict, and destabilize the already tense situation in the republic".

Nabiyev Calls For 'Consolidation'

LD0305094592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 3 May 92

[By HOVAR News Agency correspondent Zainiddin Nasriddinov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe May 3 TASS—In view of the introduction of a presidential form of government in Tajikistan, Republican President Rakhman Nabiyev broadcast to the nation, calling for the consolidation of all political forces to stabilise the situation in the republic at "this most difficult hour of trial and tribulation."

The fate of a sovereign state is now at stake, the president said. Mass rallies are going on in the capital. Confrontation between the rallies has approached the critical mark, but the people cannot tolerate that. Considering the acutest political situation, the Tajikistan Parliament

session passed a resolution on the introduction of a presidential form of government in the republic for six months.

During this period, Nabiyev assured, "I shall do my best to restore order in the republic and launch an uncompromising drive against unlawful actions. A sovereign state must defend the rights and freedom of its citizens irrespective of their nationality, religion or political convictions."

Nabiyev announced measures that have been taken for the social protection of the citizens of the republic. On May 1 minimum wage and pensions are set at 700 roubles, the prices of cotton goods are lowered by 30-40 per cent, the excise tax on cotton and aluminuim used inside the republic has been canceled.

The purchasing prices of cocoons [as received] increase six-fold and the rate of interest on the republican citizens' savings has more than doubled. At the same time, the retail prices of flour, bread, milk and vodka, with a view to protect the internal market, will be made equal to those that are in effect in neighbouring republics.

Nabiyev called on the republic's citizens to strictly observe the requirements of the regime of presidential rule and warned officials that, in the event of a breach of the republic's laws, they would be relieved of their posts and that criminal proceedings would be instituted against them.

Kenjayev Reinstated as Speaker

LD0305133192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 3 May—The former speaker of Tajikistan's parliament, Safarali Kenjayev, spent just a week as head of the republic's national security service, to which he was appointed after deputies, under pressure from the opposition, accepted his request to resign on 22 April. At the Supreme Soviet session today deputies, with no less unanimity, rescinded the previous motion and returned Safarali Kenjayev to the speaker's chair in parliament.

In Ozodi Square, where a rally of many thousands of government supporters has been going on for several days, the news was greeted rapturously. At the opposition headquarters, on the other hand, the decision was described as "crazy" and responsibility for its consequences was heaped in full on the republic's leadership, including the president. To judge from the situation, the parliament's decision would not count as a "judgment of Solomon." In Ozodi Square, intoxicated with their first major victory, they are now going on to demand the repeal of all the previous session's motions passed under opposition pressure. The situation in Shakhidon Square is more than a little unsettled, with increasing demands for the resignation of Rakhman Nabiyev and calls being made for the most decisive actions.

Reinstatement, Session Detailed

LD0305171592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1639 GMT 3 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—On May 3 the 14th extraordinary session of the Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet restored Safarali Kenjayev in his former job as the Supreme Soviet chairman. According to the decision made at the session, to which the media was not admitted, Safarali Kenjayev will occupy two posts. He will be chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet and chairman of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The session suggested that Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda, leader of Tajik Muslims and a member of the republic's Supreme Soviet, should be arrested. Nevertheless, Nurullo Khuvaidullayev, procurator general of the Republic of Tajikistan, told the session that there were no grounds to initiate criminal proceedings against Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda.

Sources report that the Media and Information Ministry of Tajikistan will be ordered to close a number of newspapers, including the ADOLAT (JUSTICE) newspaper published by the Democratic Party of Tajikistan, the SUKHAN (WORD) newspaper published by the republic's Union of Journalists, the DZHAVONONI TOJIKISTON newspaper published jointly by the editorial staff and the republic's Youth Union, the CHAROGI RUS newspaper published by private individuals and the TAJIK-PRESS newspaper, published by private individuals in the Russian language. It is expected that the session will assign a task to the Ministry of Justice to study possibilities of banning the Islamic Revival Party.

The session ordered Nurullo Khuvaidullayev, prosecutor general of the Republic of Tajikistan, to investigate into the opposition taking Supreme Soviet deputies as hostages on April 21. The session adopted an appeal to residents of Dushanbe and participants in the meeting in Shakhidon Square suggesting that the square should be cleared and blockade of Ordzhonikidze Street, where back entrances to the building of the republic's Cabinet of Ministers are located, should be lifted. President Rakhman Nabiyev told the session that he would no longer tolerate the meeting and take all necessary measures to put an end to it.

During an interval between the sittings the Presidential Council gathered at its meeting. Representatives of the opposition and participants in the meeting on Shakhidon Square were invited to take part in it. The opposition refused to participate in the Presidential Council on the ground that its representatives had been included in the council without their agreement. Late in the evening on March 2 a conciliatory deputies' commission held its sitting with participation of the opposition. The commission demanded that Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda should resign. Turadzhonzoda refused

on the ground that elections had been already planned for March 14. He said he would resign if he were not elected. The commission also suggested that Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda should address the nation on the republic's TV, the session should continue on a neutral territory in Dushanbe under the protection of the Commonwealth troops and that all elected deputies, supporters of the government and representatives of the opposition should participate in it.

Early in the morning on May 3 the government supporters attempted to break into the Supreme Soviet building and demanded that resolute measures should be taken by the deputies. Participants in the meeting in Shakhidon Square answered by demands to admit them into the building housing the republic's cabinet of ministers. They said the weather was bad and they needed shelter from rain. Thirty-eight people's deputies did not show up at the session. Their names were published in the media while the Supreme Soviet decided to consider possibilities of unseating them.

Nabiyev's Residence 'Assaulted'

OW0405101792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0943 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [3 May] night, the Tajik opposition which is holding a meeting in Shakhidon Square in Dushanbe, assaulted the Tajik president's residence. The assault was carried out in protest against the Tajik parliament's decision to reinstate Safarali Kenjayev as the parliament's chairman. Kenjayev resigned at the end of April under the pressure of the opposition and was appointed chief of the republic's security service.

The oppositionists, who were trying to break into the residence's courtyard on heavy trucks, were stopped by OMON [special purpose militia detachment] units and retreated.

When the demonstrators who had gathered in Ozodi Square and who support the government, learned about the attempted assault, they moved to Shakhidon Square, but were also stopped by enlarged militia units.

On Monday [4 May], talks between Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev and the opposition began in Dushanbe. Earlier today the parliament's chairman Safarali Kenjayev had met with the opposition leaders. According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, Safarali Kenjayev proposed that the participants in the two meetings disperse in small groups at definite intervals. This in his opinion will help bring the situation back to normal.

Nabiyev's 30 April Speech in Ozodi Square

LD0105142992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 1 May 92

[Speech by President Rahmon Nabiyev in Ozodi Square in Dushanbe on 30 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Compatriots, brothers and sisters, I express my appreciation to you, for your support for the republican leadership, and to the deputies who have gathered here for the session of the Supreme Soviet. Many nice words have been said about the president. I thank you for leaving your homes and coming here to protect the session and [word indistinct] me, the legally elected president.

Recently, the situation in the republic has become critical. The economic crisis is deepening. Living standards are falling. Rallies are being held one after another. The rally near the government building continued for a month. At present, rallies are continuing in many rayons of the republic.

Today many proposals were put before the Supreme Soviet session. A few minutes ago a decision was adopted regarding one of the issues, which was the introduction of presidential rule in the Republic of Tajikistan. I have been given additional powers, enabling me to utilize my powers easily.

Today I have come to the conclusion that, at the end of the Supreme Soviet session, it is essential to establish a National Guard within the presidency of the Republic of Tajikistan. What sort of government would it be if it cannot protect itself?

We also have come to the conclusion that since we are an independent republic, the republican board of Muslims ought to leave the Transoxania Board of Muslims.

It is possible that the session will adopt a decision instructing the procurator general of the republic to begin criminal proceedings regarding the incidents of taking hostage 17 deputies, including two deputy prime ministers.

As you know from the press, wage increases for nonproduction workers will be a top priority for us. A decision might be adopted in this regard today or tomorrow. It is also possible that we might adopt a decision on paying in hard currency, not rubles, for purchase of cereals from collective farms, cooperatives, and lease-holding enterprises. The objective of all these measures is to enhance the living standards of the population of the republic.

Dear friends, I once again express my gratitude for your gathering in the square for the sake of truth and justice. I pledge to you that I will make every effort to improve the living standards of the people. Once again expressing gratitude, I promise to serve the people to the last breath. I wish you all health, luck, and prosperity.

Decree on Presidential Rule Broadcast

LD0105193192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 1 May 92

["Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Presidential Rule"—read by announcer]

[Text] In accordance with Article 99 of the Constitution or Basic Law of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

Presidential rule shall be introduced for a period of six months on the territory of Tajikistan. During this period, the powers of the Republic of Tajikistan Supreme Soviet envisaged in Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, and 31 of Article 99 of the Republic of Tajikistan Constitution, and the powers of the Republic of Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Presidium envisaged in Paragraphs 9, 11, and 12 of Article 108 of the Republic of Tajikistan Constitution, be transferred to the president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

[Signed] Rakhman Nabiyev, president of the Republic of Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Turkish Prime Minister on Official Visit

Demirel Meets President Niyazov

LD0105130992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1209 GMT 1 May 92

[Excerpts] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, on an official visit today. On the line now is our correspondent, Mergen Omanov. We are listening to you, Mergen.

[Omanov] Good day.

[Announcer] Hello. Yes, Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and the persons accompanying him arrived today at the airport, which was decorated with the state flags of Turkey and Turkmenistan. They were met by Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov and members of the Presidential Council and the public.

Following a dinner at the presidential palace today, a meeting was held between Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Turkmenistan President Niyazov. Questions of bilateral cooperation in the field of the economy and culture were discussed. Taking part in the meeting from the Turkish side were Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, Minister of State Caglar, and Ambassador to Turkmenistan Incesu. [passage omitted]

Mergen, what does the program of Suleyman Demirel's visit entail?

[Omanov] At this very moment a joint news conference is being held by the prime minister of the Turkish Republic and the president of Turkmenistan. At this conference for journalists Demirel said that Turkey is ready to render all kinds of assistance to Turkmenistan—in allocating credit; the development of transportation, communications, and television and radio broadcasting; and also the construction of a bank.

Tomorrow morning the Turkish head is expected to attend the opening of the Turkish Embassy in Turkmenistan and meet with young students, teachers, and professors of higher educational establishments. At noon, the delegation headed by Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel will fly to Baku. [passage omitted]

Railway, Air Routes Discussed

LD0105160192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1543 GMT 1 May 92

[By TURKMENPRES correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Ashkhabad May 1 TASS—Today's negotiations between Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who has arrived in the republic on an official visit, discussed the development of bilateral economic cooperation.

The Turkish side voiced special interest in the construction of a railway to Turkey via Iran. The interlocutors also discussed a possibility of Turkish credits for the development of Turkmen national economy.

Turkmen and Turkish experts exchanged opinions on a possibility to open direct air routes between the two states.

Joint News Conference Held

TA0105192692 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1715 GMT 1 May 92

[Report by Mustafa Eric]

[Text] Ashkhabad (AA)—Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has announced that Turkey will loan $75 million to Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov said that Demirel agreed to participate in the summit to be held by the Central Asian republics and Iran in Ashkhabad on 10 May.

Demirel held bilateral talks with President Niyazov later. Following the official talks between the two delegations, Demirel and Niyazov held a joint news conference.

Noting that for the first time in history an empire has been dissolved without bloodshed, Demirel said that as a result Turkey has the opportunity to approach countries with which it has links of common language, religion, blood, and culture.

Demirel said there is no need for anyone to be worried by this development, which does not threaten anyone but rather represents a policy that aspires to world peace and stability. He stressed that Turkey does not want to rule the Central Asian republics but wants the peoples in those countries to live in peace, security, prosperity, and democracy.

On matters on which an identity of views was reached during the talks, Demirel said that an agreement will be

signed with Turkmenistan on air and highway transportation, as was the case with the other republics. He explained that scholarships will be granted to 2,000 students, that the Ziraat [Agriculture] Bank will open a joint bank in Turkmenistan, and that a loan of $75 million will be extended by Eximbank. He added that in addition to this loan, sugar, wheat, and flour will be exported on a credit basis.

Pointing out that there is no rail link between Turkmenistan and Europe, Demirel said that the railroad that starts in London crosses all of Europe but stops at Meshed in Iran at a distance of 40 kilometers from the border of Turkmenistan. He said that with the construction of an additional 180 kilometers of rail, that railroad could be joined with Turkmenistan's railroad system. Should that railroad be linked with Kazakhstan as well, then the historic silk route could be put to the service of civilization once more.

Demirel said that a project had also been submitted to Turkmenistan for transporting natural gas to Europe across Turkey and that that project will be implemented quickly after it is examined.

In response to a question, Demirel said Turkey has a moral responsibility to assist these countries. He continued: We do not consider ourselves superior to them. We are trying to cooperate with them under equal conditions.

Niyazov said Demirel's visit to Ashkhabad is a great joy and a historic occasion. In reply to a question, Niyazov explained that his country is determined to adopt the Latin alphabet, but that because of financial and other difficulties that could take a year or two.

Replying to a question on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Demirel indicated that it is Armenia which is fighting Azerbaijan. Noting that well-armed and well-organized Armenians are killing innocent Azeris in Karabakh, Demirel said that out of [number indistinct] Azeri settlements, 54 are under Armenian rule. Stressing that that situation makes a solution more difficult, Demirel said that Turkey, acting on Azerbaijan's request, explained to the world Azerbaijan's plight, preventing the issue from becoming a global conflict between Muslims and Christians.

On Yugoslavia, Demirel expressed his wish that the CSCE be successful there.

On Iran's mediation efforts in the Karabakh issue, Demirel said that Iran, as a sovereign and independent state, is free to do whatever it likes. He continued: Should its mediation harm Azerbaijan, I would not approve of it. Neighboring countries must very careful on such issues, he concluded.

Agreements Signed

TA0205111692 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 2 May 92

[Rahmi Aygun report from Baku]

[Excerpts] Before leaving Turkmenistan, Prime Minister Demirel inaugurated the Turkish Embassy in Ashkhabad. Demirel then made a speech at the Turkmen House, where Turkoman representatives from various regions gathered. [passage omitted] The prime minister noted that the embrace between two brotherly peoples after a period of a hundred years does not hurt anyone.

Pointing out that Turkey wants Turkmenistan to assert its independence and make its name heard all over the world, Demirel declared: Together, we will serve peace: world peace, regional peace, and the peace of the Turkomans. We are at your side materially and morally with all our might and means. We want you to accomplish your own work and to stand on your own feet. Yes, we will face the world together. Everyone is free to think, to do, or to say whatever they want. The world has renounced confrontation and adopted solidarity and unity. Could the cooperation among fraternal republics of the great Turkish community hurt anyone at this current phase of the world?

Following his speech, Demirel was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Turkmen State University. In a statement of gratitude, Demirel said that the embrace between brothers will go further than mere words. These brothers will stride together to reap the fruits of civilization within the framework of democracy, market economy, and the law.

A joint communique was signed on the talks between Turkey and Turkmenistan. The communique reported that bilateral relations and areas of cooperation were discussed and a constructive exchange of views was conducted during the talks. Meanwhile, the two countries signed agreements on loans, the mutual encouragement and protection of investments, highway transportation, and livestock breeding, as well as protocols on the transportation of Turkmenistan's natural gas to Turkey and on cooperation between banks.

A protocol was also signed to relay TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] Avrasya [Eurasia] broadcasts to Turkmenistan and to include domestic productions in these programs.

After concluding his contacts in Turkmenistan, Demirel proceeded to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, the last leg of his Central Asian tour.

Results Reviewed

LD0205161192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1316 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Ashkhabad, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who was visiting the capital of Turkmenistan, has signed agreements on cooperation in trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural fields. As the result of the talks, in particular, agreements were reached to transport Turkmen gas through Turkey to Europe, on air and automobile transport, technical cooperation in the field of small and medium-sized business and on creating a joint bank. Agreements also envisage training of students from Turkmenistan in Turkey. Suleyman Demirel participated in the opening ceremony of the Turkish Embassy in Ashkhabad.

This afternoon the government delegation, headed by him, arrived on an official visit in the Azerbaijan capital Baku. At the airport the high ranking guest and accompanying officials were met by Yakub Mamedov, acting president of Azerbaijan and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the republic, and by other officials.

Armenia

President Praises Iranian Mediation Role

LD0105110692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1041 GMT 1 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 1 May (ITAR-TASS)—In a ceremony to mark the opening of the Iranian Embassy in the Armenian capital, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan noted the common nature of the approaches and the unity of principles of the two countries in their appraisal of the situation in the region. He said that friendship and cooperation between the two countries will become one of the most important factors of stability and peace in Transcaucasia. The president particularly stressed the importance of Iran's mediatory mission in settling the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh. "The Iranians have proved their complete impartiality in this issue, respecting the rights of both sides and striving for a just solution, and therefore the sides trust Iran," he noted. "This is essentially the only successful peace mission out of those which have been proposed recently."

The Armenian president spoke about his forthcoming official visit to Iran from 6 to 8 May which, in his opinion, will be a turning point in the development of relations between the two countries.

Ministry Arranges President's Visit to Iran

OW0205170592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service reported that a working group of the Armenian Foreign Ministry intends to leave for Iran on a visit May 3. It will be engaged in preparations for the forthcoming visit of the Armenian president, prime minister and foreign minister to that country May 6-8.

Iran Probable Venue for Talks With Azerbaijan

LD0205183192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1821 GMT 2 May 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, May 2 TASS— Armenia and Azerbaijan will probably hold their summit next week in Iran, Russo-Armenian information centre "Pro-Armenia" announced on Saturday [2 May].

According to the information centre which referred to a source in Armenian president's office, Azeri delegation, supposedly headed by acting President Yagup Mamedov, will visit Iran during Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's talks with Iranian leaders there on May 6-8.

Ministry Calls For Mechanism To Settle Conflicts

LD0205092192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0825 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May—Armenia's Foreign Ministry has proposed the urgent creation of a mechanism for settling interstate conflicts in the Commonwealth.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry memorandum which was distributed here today points out that the end of April was marked by a sharp rise in tension on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The Azerbaijani side is shelling Armenia territory with heavy artillery, multiple launchers [ustanovki zalpogo ognya], tanks, and helicopters.

Noting that the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry is not responding to the representations of the Armenian side, Armenia's foreign minister has urged that real political mechanisms for settling interstate conflicts within the framework of the Commonwealth be urgently discussed at the upcoming meetings of heads of state and heads of government of the CIS countries.

Karabakh Says Azerbaijan Has Chemical Weapons

LD0105165192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The shelling of Stepanakert resumed this morning from the direction of Shusha and lasted for several hours. Information about casualties and destruction is being clarified. According to the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet, the Azerbaijani leadership still hopes to forcefully seize Stepanakert. As a cover toward this aim, Azerbaijan continues to spread insinuations about an alleged use of chemical weapons by the Armenian self-defense forces. These lies are being spread at a time when, according to the headquarters of the Karabakh Defence Committee, rockets and artillery shells with chemical warheads have been delivered to Azerbaijani bases in Shusha.

Azerbaijani Troops Said Massing on Borders

NC0105202992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet press service has reported that Azerbaijani Army units stationed in Khaybakhli and Dzhanhasan villages launched constant attacks against the northwestern outskirts of Stepanakert throughout 30 April and on the morning of 1 May.

The shelling of Stepanakert with Grad rockets resumed the morning of 1 May. One full Grad salvo was fired on the city. So far the number of casualties and amount of damage are not known.

Ten Armenian self-defense force fighters were injured during the battles waged at the approaches to Stepanakert's suburbs on 30 April. According to Azerbaijani sources, five Azerbaijanis were killed and 19 were injured.

Nearly 50 Grad rockets were fired on Martuni city from the Azerbaijani base in Amiranlar on 30 April, causing new damage. A few residents were injured.

Karmiravan village in Mardakertskiy Rayon was shelled with rockets from Shukranli village in Azerbaijan's Agdamskiy Rayon at 1900 on 29 April. According reliable data, 11 T-12 shells were fired on the village. Four residents were injured. Vank, Maraga, and (Chayluk) villages in the same rayon also came under massive artillery shelling. One Maraga resident was killed. The village sustained new damage.

Despite the relative calm prevailing in Armenia's regions bordering Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayon over the last three days, the situation has worsened greatly all along the border. The concentration of Azerbaijani armed units and military hardware and their redeployment continues. Trenches are being dug, formerly occupied positions are reinforced, and new gun emplacements are being set up. The shelling of the villages of Syunik [Armenia's southern region] subrayon resumed on 29 April from the high ground near Akhchenk and Seyidlar villages in Zangelanskiy Rayon. The region's self-defense forces took retaliatory action.

It is reported from Kapan city that there is a widespread evacuation of the peaceful population from the Azerbaijani border villages. This is further proof that the Azerbaijani side is getting ready to launch a massive offensive against Armenia's southern regions.

Evacuations Herald Attack

LD0205105192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to information from the Internal Affairs Department of Kafan Rayon, Armenia, people have been evacuated from border villages in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani information agencies are reporting at the same time that these villages are being fired on by artillery in Armenia. These measures, as well as the redeployment here of Azerbaijani troops and equipment, cannot be seen as anything but preparations for an active armed action by the Azerbaijan Army. This is what the PRO-ARMENIA agency believes.

Nagorno-Karabakh Economic Situation Deteriorates

LD0205183292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1728 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, May 2 (ITAR-TASS)—The Armenian Government attaches great significance to the CSCE-sponsored international Nagorno-Karabakh [NKAO] peace conference to be held soon in Minsk, and believes that "it must be possible to guarantee the safety of civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh" if it is to succeed, Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian announced today. He believes that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh need "immediate humanitarian aid."

A statement issued by the Armenian Foreign Ministry points to the recent sharp deterioration of the economic situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, brought about by the unceasing bombardment and blockade of populated areas there.

President, Foreign Minister Meet CSCE Group

NC0205102792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received on 30 April a CSCE delegation led by Swedish Deputy Foreign Minister Mathias Mossberg, who handed him a message from CSCE Chairman Jiri Dienstbier and informed him that the delegation's mission is to prepare the ground for a stable cease-fire in the region. He noted that he has already visited Baku, where the Azerbaijani leadership gave assurances about its desire to find a peaceful solution to the Karabakh problem.

In reply, Levon Ter-Petrosyan noted that despite such assurances, the Azerbaijani side is continuing to escalate military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh and does not even refrain from infringing on Armenia's borders. The president expressed the view that the CSCE and the West in general must redouble efforts to activate the process to peacefully resolve the conflict. [Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian at 1215 GMT on 1 May 92 also reports on this meeting, adding that President Ter-Petrosyan told the delegation: "The CSCE must synthesize its peace mission efforts with steps taken by Iran, whose mediation has been quite productive. In response, the guests accepted the necessity of cooperation between all the countries engaged in mediation missions."]

Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian received on 30 April members of the CSCE's specialist group Swedish Deputy Foreign Minister Mathias Mossberg, U.S. vice-consul in St. Petersburg John Pernel, and Austria's General Radauer.

The aim of the delegation is to prepare the ground for the observers commission and Mario Raffaeli, chairman of the Minsk conference, to visit Armenia between 5 and 6 May.

Raffi Hovannisian explained in detail the essence of the Karabakh problem and stressed once again that it is not a conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but a question of Azerbaijan's blatant violation of human rights

and the peoples' right to self-determination. The Armenian authorities highly assess the CSCE mediation mission for peacefully solving the problem, and call upon the international community to recognize the legal administration in Nagorno-Karabakh as a side taking part in the negotiations. Otherwise, Raffi Hovannisian added, any negotiation is condemned to failure. The conflict will then deepen and the CSCE's efforts would be in vain, and that would have unforeseeable consequences for our region, concluded the minister.

Azerbaijan

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel Arrives for Visit

NC0205191792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel is in Azerbaijan. The plane which brought Demirel and the Turkish parliamentarians, ministers, representatives of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, representatives of the telephone and telegraph systems, and a large group of businessmen landed at the new airport in Baku at 1250 on 2 May. Demirel and his delegation arrived in Azerbaijan after visiting Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

The flags of Turkey and Azerbaijan were hoisted at the airport. Azerbaijan Armed Forces fighters formed the honor guard. The people gathered at the airport greeted Prime Minister Demirel, Mrs. Nazmiye Demirel, and the delegation members by chanting: Welcome dear friends and brothers. They also presented them with spring flowers.

Yakub Mamedov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet; deputy chairmen of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet; deputies; acting Prime Minister F. Mustafayev; deputy prime ministers; ministers; renowned scientific and cultural personnel; learned men; and representatives of Baku's residents and political parties and movements warmly received Demirel and his delegation. The honor guard commander presented a report to Demirel. The guest respectfully saluted the state flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan, inspected the honor guard and talked with the fighters. Later the national anthems of the two countries were performed. Demirel addressed the Azerbaijani people in the open area.

Azerbaijan Armed Forces units organized a march-past out of the open area to display their affection for the esteemed guest. Demirel and his delegation were later escorted by an honorary group of motorcycles to their place of residence. Thousands of people from Baku greeted Demirel on the road to the capital, which was decorated with the state flags of the two countries. The people chanted: Welcome Esteemed Prime Minister.

Talks were held between Azerbaijan and Turkey at the presidential office. Demirel visited Tesettur Mosque and then held talks with Sheykh-ul-Islam Allakhshukyur Pasha-zade at the Administration for the Muslims in the Caucasus. Demirel also visited the martyrs' cemetery and laid a wreath. The martyrs were remembered at the cemetery. A meeting was held with Demirel at the building housing the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet. Documents between Azerbaijan and Turkey were signed at Gulistan Palace in the evening.

Azeri, Turkish Talks Begin

OW0205160692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talks between acting Azeri leader Yagub Mamedov and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel opened in the Azeri presidential residence in Baku Saturday [2 May].

Earlier, speaking at the ceremony at Baku airport Yagub Mamedov pointed out that Demirel's visit "is a real holiday for the whole Azeri people and for the entire Azerbaijan". He noted that Turkey was the first country to recognize Azerbaijan's independence and shared pain of the Azeri people during the grim days in January of 1990 and the Khodzhaly events in 1992.

In turn, in a brief statement at the airport Demirel expressed confidence that the Azeris will overcome all the difficulties on the way to peace, construction of a democratic state ruled by law and a market economy.

Demirel Addresses Supreme Soviet

TA0205192592 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 2 May 92

[Report by Zafer Kiraz]

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel went to the Azerbaijan parliament today and addressed the meeting of the republican Supreme Soviet. In an opening statement, Acting President Yakub Mamedov spoke of the struggle being waged by the Azeri people to attain democracy. Pointing out that there are those who are trying to divide the Turkic peoples, who speak the same language and have the same religion, Mamedov said no one will be able to achieve that.

In turn, Prime Minister Demirel noted that a big Turkish world has emerged as a result of the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. Declaring that fraternity with Azerbaijan is more important than commercial and industrial relations between the two countries, Demirel said there is no need to prove that fact or to be disturbed by it. Nothing will be changed by those who cannot accept that fact or are disturbed by it, he added.

Demirel explained that the Turkic states that have declared their independence must make efforts to govern themselves well and provide a life of peace, prosperity, and security to their people under democracy. This,

Demirel said, is possible only through a well-administered regime. He then noted the importance of stability.

Noting that the Karabakh incidents have caused deep suffering, Demirel said that the realities must be better explained to the world and that to do so the people of Azerbaijan must stand united on national issues without being affected by provocations. He continued:

[Begin recording] The conflict must be explained better to the world public. What I mean to say is that sometimes, because of our pride and because we are shy and reserved, we cannot propagandize and promote our cause as we should. That is characteristic of our peoples. It is a noble trait, but it harms our propaganda efforts. In the coming days, we must find better means to present our case to the world.

There is nothing more natural than finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. The contemporary world requires peaceful solutions to conflicts. When a conflict is solved forcibly, opposing forces emerge after a while. We should not be considered unjust by the world when, in fact, our cause is just. We must pursue our policies patiently and meticulously. Sentiments can be instrumental in solving big problems, but I believe that only justice must lead to solution.

We, a population of 60 million in Turkey, are well aware of how sensitive this issue is for Azerbaijan. As these incidents were happening, our parliament, press, and public pressured us to act. We told them to be patient. When I was received by U.S. President Bush in Washington on 11 February, I told him that if the United States and Western countries back Armenia in this conflict, then we will have to stand by Azerbaijan, and this will turn into a conflict between Muslims and Christians that will last for years. We told the same things to French President Mitterrand when he visited Ankara. We have prevented the world from supporting Armenia.

What must be done is to consider well the issues and find a just solution by acting patiently. It is impossible to defeat justice. We will seek justice patiently. [end recording]

By pointing out that Demirel's words have given the Azeri people strength, Mamedov expressed gratitude to Demirel on behalf of the people of Azerbaijan.

Prime Minister Demirel is continuing his contacts in Azerbaijan.

Joint News Conference Held

TA0205204392 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Azerbaijan's Acting President Yakub Mamedov today signed protocols and agreements on cooperation in various fields between Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Kerim Aydin Erdem, TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] director general, and Ershad Kuliyev, Azerbaijan's radio and television director general, signed a protocol to provide for Avrasya [Eurosia] TV broadcasts to be viewed in Azerbaijan, for TRT programs to be made available in Azerbaijan, and for mutual cooperation.

Later Demirel and Mamedov held a joint news conference. Speaking at the news conference, Demirel noted that new horizons have emerged before the world and that the administrators of the Republic of Turkey were well aware of the opportunities that that development has provided. Demirel said that unity and cooperation among the Turkic republics will contribute substantially to the development of those countries and to world peace.

Mamedov said that the agreements signed today following the official talks held between the delegations of the two countries constitute a new phase in bilateral relations.

Mamedov then hosted Demirel at a dinner.

Demirel will conclude his contacts tomorrow and will then return home.

Demirel Meets Party Leaders

LD0305101392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 3 May 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku, May 3 TASS—The second day of the stay of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel in the capital of Azerbaijan began on Sunday [3 May] with a call on the headquarters of the Popular Front.

The community of views on the need to carry on democratic transformations launched in Azerbaijan and to look for peaceful ways to resolve the Karabakh conflict was pointed out during Demirel's 40-minute conversation with Abulfas Elchibei, chairman of the Popular Front, the most influential socio-political organisation in the republic.

The interlocutors also discussed the question of the forthcoming election of a head of state in Azerbaijan. They believe that the world community's attitude to the republic depends in many respects on the holding of elections on a truly democratic basis.

It was emphasised that only a president and his team taking office as a result of free elections and enjoying the trust of the people would be able to resolve the difficult problems facing Azerbaijan.

These matters were also touched upon during Demirel's talks with the leaders of other socio-political parties and movements at the Turkish Guest's temporary residence.

On Sunday morning he met with Etibar Mamedov, 37, chairman of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan, the youngest of seven contenders for the republic's presidency.

Late on Saturday [2 May] night Suleyman Demirel and Yagub Mamedov, Azerbaijani acting president and parliament chief, signed a joint communique on the expansion and deepening of cooperation between the two countries on a mutually beneficial basis.

A package of documents envisaging cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey in the humanitarian and financial spheres was signed as well.

Departs Baku Early

LD0305120792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] The opening ceremony of the Turkish Embassy took place in Baku today, with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel in attendance. In accordance with an Eastern tradition, two white lambs were sacrificed at his feet. According to Suleyman Demirel, the opening of a Turkish mission in Baku at such a high level marks a new turn in relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Speaking at the ceremony, Yagub Mamedov, acting president of the republic and head of the Azerbaijani Government, and Abulfaz Elchibey, chairman of the Azerbaijani Popular Front, noted that a foundation has been simultaneously laid for the expansion and deepening of detailed, mutually beneficial ties between Azerbaijan and Turkey.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1148 GMT on 3 May carries the following Baku-datelined report by an AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent:

["Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has had to adjust his plans and cancel a number of meetings arranged under the protocol of his visit to the capital of Azerbaijan. With apologies to his hospitable hosts, he left Baku by air this afternoon for Ankara.

["AZERINFORM was told by official circles that Suleyman Demirel's premature departure was due to his forthcoming meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who is expected to arrive in the Turkish capital today."]

CIS Troops To Leave Azerbaijan by End of 1993

LD0405075992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] The CIS Joint Armed Forces will be withdrawn from Azerbaijan by the end of 1993. This was agreed at the talks held in Baku between representatives of Azerbaijan and the Russian Defense Ministry, the BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY [BAKU WORKER] newspaper reports. The sides agreed on transferring some subunits of the CIS Armed Forces to Azerbaijan's jurisdiction.

Meeting on Forces 'Positive'

OW0205160192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a TV address Azeri Defense Minister Ragim Gaziyev gave a positive assessment to the results of his meeting with Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and the commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, Valery Patrikeyev, on the transfer of the armed forces stationed on Azeri territory to the republic's jurisdiction.

He said Grachev and Patrikeyev promised assistance in the equipment of the Azeri national forces.

He qualified occasional attacks on CIS units stationed on Azeri territory as attempts to wreck the military agreements.

Official on Armenian Status at Peace Talks

LD0105125992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] On 1 May the CSCE conference on Nagorno-Karabakh opens in Helsinki. In this connection Gambarov, chairman of Azerbaijan's Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, told journalists that his republic's delegation would insist that the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh take part not as representatives of some state entity but only as representatives of the Armenian community within a single Azerbaijani delegation.

Clashes Reported Around Nagorno-Karabakh

Forces Attack Armenian Settlements

LD0105211192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan have begun a number of fierce attacks against the city of Khankendy and the villages around it.

According to a report on Yerevan radio on 1 May, in the evening of 1 May armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan began a number of extensive attacks against Armenian positions in the city of Khankendy and the village of Karintag. Heavy artillery fire and missiles were used during the attacks.

Army Reportedly Massing Vehicles

LD0205103292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] About 1,000 shells, including 300 missiles, were fired at the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic,

Stepanakert, from the direction of Shusha in this week alone. According to the SNARK agency, this was stated today by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic self-defense committee. This week 20 civilians died as a result of gunfire in Stepanakert. The committee's statement also says that new convoys of vehicles with ammunition are arriving in Shusha and that a large concentration of Azerbaijan Army armored formations and armored vehicles can be observed.

Shelling Continues

LD0305145992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 3 May—ITAR-TASS was informed at the Armenian state directorate for special programs which cites the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet press center that the shelling of Stepanakert (Khankendi) from Shusha is not subsiding. Besides this taking place, the Azerbaijani Army has bombarded the town with 30 rockets from MI-24 combat helicopters. One person has been killed and eight civilians wounded.

According to the headquarters of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic self-defense forces, large concentrations of Azerbaijani forces consisting of 1,500 ground troops and 20 armored vehicles are being registered near the southeastern approaches to the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. They began moving toward Stepanakert this afternoon. According to the same sources, the Armenian self-defense forces are holding the enemy in check with difficulty.

According to the Armenian state directorate for special programs which receives information on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, reports received by 1700 say that units of the Azerbaijan Army are on the approaches to Stepanakert, where fierce battles are going on. Due to continuous firing, there is no opportunity to receive accurate reports on the number of killed and wounded, a spokesman of this directorate noted.

Ministry Accuses Armenia of Disinformation

LD0205125192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1052 GMT 2 May 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 2 May—The village of Alibeyli, Tauzskiy Rayon, Azerbaijan was today subjected to mass artillery firing from the territory of Shamshadinskiy Rayon in Armenia. According to preliminary reports obtained by an AZERINFORM correspondent at the Azerbaijan People's Front's information center, there are dead and wounded among the residents.

Yesterday the artillery shelling from Armenian territory of a second Azerbaijan settlement—the village of Avush, Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic—continued until late in the night.

In the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's opinion, the escalation of the armed conflict on the border and in Karabakh "is being accompanied by disinformation widely spread by Armenian information media about an attack supposedly being prepared by Azerbaijan self-defense forces on Khankendi (Stepanakert) with the aim of taking it." Thus "an information screen is being created over the aggression increasing daily against Azerbaijan." According to information received from the same source, armed formations and equipment have recently been brought into Armenian border areas and military supplies, ammunition, equipment, and armed groups are being intensively redeployed by helicopter into Armenian settlements in the mountainous area of Karabakh from the territory of its kindred republic.

Karabakh Denies Chemical Weapons Used

OW0205142192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A spokesman of the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament said that yesterday and this morning (May 1 and 2) the Azeris were still shelling the northwestern outskirts of Stepanakert (Khankendi), capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and were trying to attack the city. There were killed and wounded on both sides but their exact number is unknown so far.

According to information coming from the headquarters of the Karabakh self-defense force, considerable Azeri forces have been brought to the Fizuli District of Azerbaijan and stationed all along the border with the Gadrut and Martuni districts of Nagorno-Karabakh. Practically all border villages in Gadrut District were being shelled from Fizuli District all day long yesterday.

Meanwhile the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament issued a statement rejecting the reports in the Azeri media to the effect that the Armenians were using chemical weapons in the Karabakh conflict. By spreading such rumors, the statement goes, Baku is hoping to provide justification for its own intention to use such weapons in Karabakh. The statement makes a reference to intelligence reports to the effect that shells and missiles with chemical warheads were brought to an OMON (riot police) base in Shusha a week ago.

The Self-Defense Committee of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has reported that about 800 missiles and 200 shells have been fired at Stepanakert during the past week from the Shusha direction, killing 20 civilians and destroying hundreds of houses and practically all the facilities providing the town with water, electricity, etc.

According to reports provided by district interior departments and some local branches of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan, last night and in the small hours today the Armenians were firing at Azeri towns and villages in Fizuli, Kazakh, Lachi, Kubatly, Kelbaiar, and Tauz districts bordering on Armenia. Jafarli and Sofulu villages in Kazakh District were heavily shelled, whereas Alibeili village was attacked with unguided missiles launched from helicopters.

According to information received in the Azeri Interior Ministry, the Armenia-Nagorno-Karabakh airlift is still in operation, with a daily average of 15-20 helicopters arriving at armed detachments' bases from Armenia. Armenian personnel and arms are also being amassed in the Agderi District of Azerbaijan. In the small hours of today missiles were fired from Grad launchers at the outskirts of Shusha, the nearby villages of Kosalar and Gaibaly, and some of the villages in the Terter District of Azerbaijan. Meanwhile some 40 shells were shot at the town of Fizuli, destroying 11 houses.

Leaders Blamed for Aggravating Conflict

LD0205152592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 2 ITAR-TASS—The Self-Defence Committee of Karabakh placed the responsibility for a "new spiral in the armed conflict" on the political and military leadership of Azerbaijan. A committee statement released in Moscow today says "the Azeri subversion groups operating in the frontier area deal brutally with local inhabitants of the Armenian nationality," rocket launchers "grad" and heavy artillery are more often used against towns and villages of Nagorno-Karabakh." Only over last week thousands of shells were fired at Stepanakert from the direction of Shusha, which the statement terms "the main military base of Azerbaijan in the zone of the conflict." "Twenty civilians were killed, hundreds of houses and state buildings were ruined, thousands of women and children were left without a roof over their heads." The committee is worried about the continuous concentration of infantry troops, material and ammunition in Shusha from where civilians were moved out.

According to the statement, Azerbaijan spreads rumours about the use of chemical weapons by Armenians with the aim of preparing public opinion for a planned large-scale military operation against Karabakh and "representing it later as forced retaliatory actions."

Stepanakert Said on 'Brink of Starvation'

LD0305132192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast authorities have appealed for extraordinary help for Stepanakert. According to them the population of the city is on the brink of starvation.

Georgia

Iran, Georgia Discuss Karabakh Issue, Ties

LD0205175992 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 2, IRNA—The head of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze today expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran to establish a permanent ceasefire in the conflict in Karabakh between the neighbouring republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Shevardnadze in a meeting with Iran's special envoy, Bahram Qasemi who delivered Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's written letter to him, emphasized on putting an end to the Karabakh conflict.

Qasemi who is the Iranian charge d'affaires in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, announced Iran's intent to establish relations with Georgia and briefed him on Iran's mediation efforts to end the Karabakh dispute.

Qesemi invited Shevardnadze, the one-time foreign minister of the former Soviet Union, to visit Iran which the latter accepted.

Attacks, Blockade by Ossetians Reported

AU0105153792 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The internal troops have left, but tension has not decreased. Valiko Doliashvili, administrative board chairman for Gori and Gori region, informed a SAKINFORM correspondent that Georgian villages in Samachablo [South Ossetia] continue to be under blockade. Armed Ossetian extremists have blocked the roads leading to these villages. We are unable to get provisions to them.

Shooting at Georgian villages continues. It is quite clear that Ossetian extremists are trying to exacerbate the conflict and are retreating from holding negotiations. Their provocative behavior toward Georgians is aimed at continuing the bloody war. It is known to us that there are correspondents from Russia and other foreign countries in Tskhinvali, and therefore the Ossetian extremists are trying to show them the aggressive actions of the Georgians. To their chagrin, they have not succeeded in this; Georgians are not shooting. This is angering them, and they are continuing to attack Georgian villages. Elderly Georgians have been captured in Kornisi, and two Georgian youths were killed by automatic gunfire while working in the (?fields) in Nikosi. On 29 April, shots were fired at Georgian houses in Tamarasheni. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

Ossetian extremists are angry that a certain section of the Ossetian population in Tskhinvali wants a resolution of the conflict through peaceful negotiations and the restoration of traditional good-neighborly relations. The people are tired of so much bloodshed and they long for peace. Precisely to establish peace and dialogue with Ossetian representatives and to resolve the civil and interethnic conflict in Tskhinvali region, energetic measures are being implemented by the State Committee for Interethnic Relations and the Defense of Human Rights led by its chairman, Aleksandr Kavsadze, the republic's deputy prime minister. Both Georgians and the Ossetian population that is longing for peace are awaiting the beginning of negotiations with hope.

Draft Peace Settlement Reached in South Ossetia

LD0205171492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to reports, the past 24 hours in Vladikavkaz have not been calm. During the night the outskirts of Tskhinval were shelled from the direction of Georgian villages. But ways toward a settlement are appearing.

[Correspondent A. Kondulukov] An international seminar on the problems of national minorities and national conflicts in the Transcaucasus ended in Copenhagen yesterday. At a news conference in Moscow today, chairman of the Georgian Popular Front Nodar Natadze presented a draft settlement to the South Ossetia situation.

[Begin Natadze recording] It will provide the two communities—that is, the Ossetian and the Georgian—with an opportunity to avoid contact with each other as much as possible. [end recording]

[Kondulukov] The draft settlement contains specific proposals for refugees to return home, transport blockades to be lifted, and food to be delivered. Representatives of the Georgian Charter-91 organization and the Ossetian Republican Party should oversee the cease-fire. But the main problem is that there are entirely uncontrolled armed groups—more simply, gangs of thugs—on both sides. It is they who are responsible for the flourishing trade in hostages and even corpses in the conflict zone. Yet the chairman of the Georgian Popular Front views the future with optimism.

[Begin Natadze recording] As of today, there is hope that the conflict—it will not of course happen in a couple of days, but perhaps over a few months—might be resolved. [end recording]

Roundup of South Ossetian Violence

LD0305105192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 3 May—The main transport route Dzhava-Tskhinval, which has been controlled by the detachments of the Georgian ex-president's supporters for several weeks, has begun functioning again today. The transportation of humanitarian aid, food, and medicine from Vladikavkaz to South Ossetia has been resumed along this route. In connection with the spring field work the inhabitants of the suburbs of Tskhinval, remote Ossetian villages in the Tskhinval and Znaur districts have asked the Georgian side to cease firing on populated areas. They are also requesting that "green corridors" be created for the movement of transport and the safe passage of people.

The situation overnight in the region was relatively calm. "Sporadic" fire from automatic weapons and sniper rifles was carried out in the north and south districts of Tskhinval and on important supply installations from the direction of the Georgian villages of Nikozi and Tamarasheni. Return fire to suppress the attackers' positions was opened by sub-units of the Ossetian Guard and self- defense detachments defending the approaches to Tskhinval. There are no reports of casualties.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Resume Demonstrations

LD0305191292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia have once more renewed their protest actions. Every day things are changing, but the Zviadists, maintaining the same line, are once more destabilizing the situation. The purpose of the movement is still the same—they are demanding the unconditional return of the president whom they fanatically support, without noticing however, that his time passed long ago.

The group of supporters of the former president have started a wave of meetings and demonstrations in the same town of Zugdidi, which they have made famous to the whole world. They have erected tents in the center of the town where hunger strikers will obviously take shelter in the near future. Attempts are also being made to organize demonstrations in the town of Senaki, but they are not particularly successful, as people are tired of violence.

In Tbilisi, the defenders of the wonder, who was legally elected by 87 percent of the population, are not idle. At a recent gathering in the courtyard of the late Mirab Kostava—incidentally this is now the new hang-out for the supporters of the Zviadists—they could not ignore the situation which has now arisen in Tskhinvalskiy Rayon. They have stated that in spite of the withdrawal of Russian forces from there, the Georgian Government—the so-called government, of course—is not in control of the situation.

The speakers have also reminded their several dozen listeners for probably the 100th time that Zviad Gamsakhurdia is the legally elected president, and also that his overthrow by force has set a dangerous precedent.

Estonia

Prime Minister Vahi To Visit China 9-13 May

OW3004221292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1858 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of the assistants of Estonian Prime Minister Tat Vahi, Andiy Maister, has informed our correspondent that the Prime Minister will pay an official visit to China in May at the invitation of the Chairman of the Chinese State Council, Li Peng.

In the course of his visit, which will last from 9 to 13 May, Vahi will sign a trade agreement and visit one of the free economic zones in China.

Having close contacts with China is one of the foreign policy aims for Estonia, whereas the latter has only minor economic contacts with Taiwan.

Estonian ex-Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar intended to pay an unofficial visit to Taiwan but his government's resignation wrecked his plan.

Government Appoints New Ministerial Officials

LD0105165892 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Several appointments were made at today's session of the Estonian Government. Today's government session appointed Uno Veering, minister of state, as acting defense minister. Toomas Puura was appointed deputy defense minister. The Government charged Uno Veering and Toomas Puura with the task of promptly setting up the Ministry of Defense.

Rait (?Roosvee) becomes deputy minister of state. He will be dealing with the administrative reform. Juri Nurme was relieved from the post of director general of the police department. The new director general at the police department will be Igor (?Aaman). Janno Reiljan, Boris Tamm, and Anto Raukas were appointed government councillors, and Toomas Sepp Tallinn city secretary.

Tallinn Appeals for Aid in Russian Withdrawal

LD0305123792 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1600 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Estonia is now appealing to foreign countries to exert pressure on the Russian Government to withdraw all its troops from the Baltic. The direct reason is that a high-ranking Russian military person has stated that it is planned to restart the training reactors at the Paldiski naval base near Tallinn. Our correspondent has talked to (?Allar Oljum), who is the Estonian delegate to the current CSCE conference in Helsinki.

[(?Oljum)] I think that with regard to nuclear reactors which are completely unprotected and which lack international supervision and which are almost or more than 20 years old, then there is cause for great concern not only for Estonians but for the neighboring countries, too.

[Unidentified correspondent] Paldiski is situated west of Tallinn on the coast, not far from Finland and Sweden. Now support is needed from the neighbors, thinks (?Allar Oljum).

[(?Oljum)] Estonia is like a fly compared to an elephant in this matter, and it means that we are seeking support from neighboring countries and from the entire international community.

UN Ambassador Protests Over Soviet Troops

LD0305205792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Aivars Baumanis, permanent authorized ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations, has presented an official memorandum to the UN Security Council, protesting against the supplementing of the former USSR Army troops on the territory of the Republic of Latvia with new contingents subject to Russian jurisdiction. Documents of similar contents were presented to the Security Council by Lithuanian and Estonian diplomats as well.

Russian Official Confirms Withdrawal Timetable

OW0405134792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1334 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The withdrawal of troops of the former Soviet Union, presently under Russian jurisdiction, from the territory of Lithuania will be completed after 1995, averred Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russia's first deputy minister of foreign affairs, at his meeting with journalists in Vilnus this Monday [4 May], following his first talks with the Lithuanian Government officials. He tied the withdrawal terms to the progress made in house construction in the troop relocation areas. In the words of Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russia is prepared to accelerate the troops withdrawal as much as possible.

Answering INTERFAX's question, Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev admitted that the Russian side is prepared to address property claims by Lithuania, as well as reimbursement of damage attributed to the stay of the former Soviet troops in Lithuania.

Paper Says Russia To Establish Border Control

OW3004152392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1410 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian newspaper "Rahva Haal" reports that currently Russia is carrying intensive preparatory works for establishing border control at the Estonian-Russian border by May 9.

The newspaper reports that in the Pechora region of Russia, which till 1940 belonged to Estonia, 2 pioneer camps and 3 boarding houses are freed to quarter frontier-guards.

Paramilitary Group To Join Defense Force

LD0105154792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0937 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tallinn—A paramilitary organization, Kaitseliit, has been recognized as component part of Estonia's defence forces. Under a resolution of the Estonian Government of April 28, the commander of the organization, and general staff will be appointed by the government on a proposal from the commander of the republic's defence forces. Kaitseliit and its commander will be directly answerable to the defence force supreme commander. Kaitseliit's activity will be financed from the state defence budget. The requisite equipment will be supplied by the Estonian Defence Forces. The agreement stipulates that in its activity, Kaitseliit will take guidance from the Estonian laws and regulations established in 1931 and the Kaitseliit charter and internal regulations, approved in 1934.

Economics Minister on End to Subsidies

LD0205220992 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Interview with Economics Minister Heido Vitsur by correspondent Aivo Barbo in Tallinn on 27 April—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] We have asked Economics Minister Heido Vitsur to comment on today's government resolution on ending subsidies on milk procurement price and heating. [passage omitted]

[Vitsur] I would like to see it first and foremost that inhabitants of Estonia would note confuse two things. There was talk about an increase in municipal services and rents and about how much this would cost in the month of May. We will for the time of being talk only about May. Now, when we look at May when heating will be discontinued and the actual payments for rent and municipal services will increase by only 700 rubles [R], for example, in a two-room apartment.

This is, of course, a large sum of money but if we take into account that wages will be increased by about R1,000 a month and subsistence payments by R700, and that in every two-room flat 1.6 wage-earners live on the average then the increase in the wage of one full-wage earner will go toward payments for the rent and municipal services and the 0.6 percent, I mean part of a wage-earner's money will go toward compensations for milk, so on the average compensations will be quite sufficient. [passage omitted]

[Barbo] Yet we are now short of nearly one billion rubles in the state budget, local budgets and those very same funds. Plus, the government will be allocating another R350,000 for compensations. How will the state finally find this money?

[Vitsur] This is not quite so terrible. We have been looking at the calculations at the Finance Ministry today and it seems to me that despite all very black forecasts the Finance Ministry will be able to finish April with a deficit of only a few percent. For a current deficit this does not amount to a big amount at all. So that here the measures which we resorted to before—sales of hard currency and other—have produced very good results.

[Barbo] Yes, we have been talking about our ruble budget only but the budget consists also of the sale of hard currency.

[Vitsur] Yes, of course. For this reason we have so far managed, but in May we would no longer have been able to pay this 1 million rubles in subsidies out of the budget. All those reserves which we had have now been exhausted. Now we must simply opt for ending subsidies; this is called for also by the Estonian monetary reform because with considerable subsidies and a budget deficit we will not be able to implement a monetary reform. [passage omitted]

Before then there will be a monetary reform, a major price reform will take place in Russia, too, with prices being liberalized, and as a result of this evidently we will end up with a completely different fuel import geography. This at the moment cannot be foretold. At the moment we are living from month to month and keep preparing for the winter but one should not at present forecast anything—and figures in particular—for October. In any case, Estonia will not go cold and hungry next winter either.

[Barbo] Thank you for your optimism.

Ukrainian President Kravchuk To Visit

OW0405135692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1335 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk is planning to come to Estonia on an official visit on May 25-27.

The press center of the Estonian parliament informs that the Estonian and Ukrainian leaders are expected to sign a friendship and cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Denmark

LD0105222492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Hans von Kock, Danish minister of energy [name and title as heard], and Arvi Hamburg, Estonian deputy

minister of industry and energy, today signed a cooperation agreement between the two states' Ministries of Energy. Mr. Hamburg said that an appendix to the agreement states the specific priority spheres for cooperation, participation in international energy saving programs, consultations on comprehensive energy management, integration into world organizations, participation in the shaping of energy prices, and policy on taxes. One important sphere for cooperation is participation in the international oil market.

Agreements Reached With Ex-Soviet Republics

LD0205022492 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] During a conference of ministers of internal affairs of the former USSR republics in Alma-Ata on 23 and 24 April, the Republic of Estonia Ministry of Internal Affairs concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with Kazakh, Uzbek, Armenian, Kyrgyz, Tajik, and Georgian Ministries of Internal Affairs. ETA was informed of this by the police department's press office.

Previously, agreements of this kind had been concluded with Latvian, Lithuanian, and Moldovan Ministries of Internal Affairs.

Particular attention is paid to cooperation in fighting organized crime, drug addiction, and economic crime. Possibilites for cooperation in seeking criminals are envisaged. An agreement in principle was reached that similar agreements will be concluded in the near future by the Estonian Ministry of Internal Affairs with Azerbaijani, Ukrainian, Byelarusian, Russian, and Turkmen Ministries of Internal Affairs.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Thailand

LD0205022692 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] According to the Estonian Foreign Ministry's press service, today in New York diplomatic relations were established between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Estonia.

Notes Exchanged on Opening Russian Consulate

LD0205025892 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent Ago Gaskov]

[Text] Today Aleksey (?Zhigurev), representative of the Russian Embassy, opened for business in Narva. According to a Narva newspaper, Mr. (?Zhigurev) graduated from a technical university, was appointed to a post in Estonia, and among other places worked at the oil-shale chemical production association [in northeast Estonia].

After he returned to Russia, he was invited to do diplomatic work after a period of time, and this is how he finds himself back in Estonia. According to Mr. (?Zhigurev), quite a number of people came to see him today: about 80 visitors. Most of them—about 60 people—applied for Russian citizenship. Many were interested in issues connected with leaving Estonia. For example, would it be possible to find housing for them equal to what they have here?

Tomorrow, 29 April, Aleksey (?Zhigurev), the Russian representative, will be receiving visitors at Sillamae and the day after tomorrow in Narva again.

It is planned to open a Russian consulate soon in Narva. When exactly depends on the signing of a consular convention. Notes concerning the opening of consulates are said to have been exchanged by the Estonian and Russian Foreign Ministries.

Latvia

European Council Delegation Assesses Membership

LD0105100892 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 1930 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Council of Europe delegation, which has been in Riga for two days in order to assess the conformity of the laws of Latvia to international human rights norms and to give its conclusion on the possibility of accepting Latvia as a full member of the Council of Europe, has held a meeting with Anatolijis Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, and representatives of the Supreme Council's factions.

Members of the European Parliament asked the deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia these questions: Is it possible, when deciding on grating the citizenship of the Republic of Latvia, to cancel the demand of the knowledge of the Latvian language for persons older than 50, and is it possible to grant citizenship without any preconditions to people who were born and reside permanently in Latvia?

As Andrejs Pantelejevs, deputy chairman of the People's Front faction, explained, the first question will be solved positively. In order to adopt liberal conditions for obtaining citizenship of the Republic of Latvia, first of all a demand for the withdrawal of the Russian Army had to be raised. Russia at present demonstrates a cynical unwillingness to withdraw its Army from Latvia. If Europe would demand liberalism, not doing anything for Russia to withdraw the Army, this may cause the Latvian people feelings of distrust toward Europe and an unnecessary radicalism, Andrejs Pantelejevs said. More liberal principles of naturalization may be adopted only if Latvians support them.

Friedrich Vogel, member of the European Parliament from Germany, emphasized that as a result of such a naturalization process a great many stateless persons will be created, which is a negative process, and countries throughout the world are endeavoring to avoid this. He

feels that those who were born and live in Latvia cannot be compelled to become citizens of Russia.

Latvia's UN Note on Libyan Submarine Viewed

PM0305123992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Pavel Golub report: "Latvia Accuses Russia of Violating Sanctions Against Libya, or 'Compromise of Occupier'"]

[Text] According to a REUTER report, Latvia's UN mission has disseminated a statement informing the Security Council that "a submarine is being repaired in a Latvian ship repair dock under Russia's control, presumably for Libya—which is an obvious violation of the international sanctions" against Tripoli.

In response to a request to comment on this report, the Russian Foreign Ministry replied that a Libyan submarine really has been in the docks of the ship repair enterprise at Bolderaja near Riga for more than two years. The agreement to repair it was signed with Tripoli by the former Soviet Union. At present the submarine is in a nonoperational state and cannot leave the dock under its own power. Taking into account President Yeltsin's ordinance on Russia's subscribing to the international sanctions against Libya, there can be no question of handing the submarine over to it before the international sanctions have been lifted.

Reporting on the statement disseminated by the Latvian UN mission, commentators could not fail to link the appearance of this "information message to the international community"— something that is encountered quite rarely in diplomatic practice—with the current meetings of Russian and Latvian expert groups to prepare an agreement on the conditions of the presence of troops under the Russian Federation's jurisdiction and the procedure for their withdrawal from Latvia's territory. As far as we know from informed sources, these talks are proceeding with great difficulty. At the same time as insisting on the definition "occupiers" in respect of the troops on Latvian territory who have gone over to Russia, Riga is putting to Moscow demands for "elucidation" as to what these troops do. It is not surprising, therefore, that commentators regard the maneuver by the Latvian mission in New York as a not quite diplomatic ploy aimed at exerting pressure on the Russian partners in the talks.

Naval Shipyard Ignores Demands for Future

OW0305151692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1451 GMT 3 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The next round of negotiations about the future of Naval Ship-Repairing Yard No. 177 in Riga is scheduled for May 11- 12.

This is what the head of the Technical Department of the Latvian Naval Ministry, Olgerts Brizgo, said in an interview with BF [BALTFAX]:

The yard, put within the ministry's jurisdiction at the beginning of the year by decision of the Latvian Government, still ignores all demands of the Latvian authorities. Moreover, the Central Administration of Ship-repairing Yards of the CIS Navy has given it the status of Russian state-owned enterprise for an indefinite period of time.

The Latvian Government cannot accept the transfer of the yard to Russia as a normal armed forces division. No more than four or five employees are servicemen—holding managerial jobs—whereas the rest (about 4,000 people) are civilians, most of them Russian-speaking. In case the yard is moved to Russia, the Latvian Government will demand that the personnel be also evacuated. The government has also rejected the yard management'a propoool that it be made a limited company and included in the Register of the Latvian Republic, with the bulk of the capital belonging to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and only 30% to Latvia.

The Latvian Naval Ministry likes the view that the yard will most probably be made a Latvian-Russian joint venture. But so far the sides have been unable to come to terms as to their shares in the authorised capital. The Russian military offer Latvia 25-30%, whereas Latvia refuses to accept less than 50%.

Israeli Defense Minister Cited on Arms Sales

OW3004221592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1858 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said his country was not going to sell any arms to Latvia, and that, moreover, the issue was not even discussed during his visit to that country.

Yesterday (April 29) Arens had a meeting with Latvian Defence Minister Talavs Jundzis, who informed the Israeli minister about the basic principles that being proposed for Latvia's defence policy.

Tomorrow Arens is planning to go to Vilnius.

New Timetable for Withdrawal of Troops Proposed

LD0105173392 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 1930 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] From today until 29 April in Moscow there will be another meeting of the Latvian and Russian working group of experts, formed a couple of months ago, to prepare and coordinate a text acceptable to both sides for a treaty on the terms, schedule, and arrangements for the full withdrawal of the former USSR armed forces which are under Russia's jurisdiction, and their legal status during the withdrawal. The official delegation of Latvia

at the bilateral talks is to demand that the neighboring state's troops leave Riga by October this year, and the whole territory of Latvia by September 1993.

The Latvian group of experts is led by Deputy Minister of Defense Dainis Turlajs. In this connection interest was also drawn to reports of the offer by the administration of the State of Delaware in the United States to build residential homes in Russia for officers leaving the Baltic states. This project would allow Russia to withdraw its troops from the Baltics within two years. Delaware is currently awaiting a final decision from the Baltic states and confirmation from the Russian Government. The project does not envisage any financial or material investments from Latvia; the one paying would be Russia, in natural resources and loans from U.S. banks. [passage omitted]

Experts Begin Talks on Russian Army Withdrawal

LD0105221992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report from Moscow by correspondent Peteris Austrums]

[Text] The group of experts from Latvia, led by [Deputy Defense Minister] Dainis Turlajs, [illegible] in Moscow to prepare a treaty on the withdrawal of the Russian Army and its temporary presence in Latvia, continued its work.

During the meeting at the Russian Foreign Ministry the Latvian side presented its [word indistinct] of the previous round of talks at Ligatne, specifying its views on questions relating to the withdrawal of the Russian Army and its temporary presence on Latvian territory.

The Russian side, led by Sergey Zotov, head of the group of experts and the head of the [word indistinct] talks with Latvia, explained that because he is now head of the delegation for the bilateral talks with Latvia, the experts group will in future be headed by [Viktor Sikalov], a senior official of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The talks took place in two discussion groups. One is discussing legal property matters and the social aspects of the Army's withdrawal; the other is considering the specifications for the new talks with Russia on the period of withdrawal.

Defense Ministry Estimates Former Army Strength

LD0305104192 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0430 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Information on the presence of the Army in Latvia has been defined more precisely. The Latvian Ministry of Defense has reported that it has prepared a detailed document on the presence of army in Latvia. According to Ministry of Defense calculations, approximately 47,700 soldiers, including 15,700 officers and 29,900 soldiers, might be stationed currently in Latvia. Besides, there are also border guards and special units. The most extensive garrisons are stationed in Riga, Dobele, Daugavpils, and Liepaja.

Foreign Trade Minister Returns From Moscow

LD0105205992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Latvian Foreign Trade Minister Edgars Zausajevs and Deputy Industry and Energy Minister Ziedonis Blumbergs returned from a visit to Moscow today.

After intensive talks with representatives of the Russian Government, they signed a protocol on the arrangements for mutual accounting of small clearing supplies between Latvia and Russia. The protocol signed in Moscow provides that this year accounting for the mutual small clearing supplies will be done in rubles [R], with $1 being equivalent to R55. The previous dollar-ruble rate was 1:35. That means that in future we will buy gasoline from Russia for R9,900 a tonne. Of course, the prices of our food and industrial products will also rise accordingly.

The protocol also provides that accounting will be done directly between producers and recipients, without using the services of any intermediate third parties.

In the talks with the Russian side, it was agreed to settle the question of not using export tariffs relating to goods supplies in the first quarter.

May Day Celebration in Riga Reported

OW0205172192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1526 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nearly 2-3 thousand people, mostly elderly, staged an authorized May 1 rally in Esplanade square at the center of Riga. The rally was organized by the Latvian Independent Trade Unions Association. The demonstrators were waving flags of the former USSR and the Latvian Soviet Socialist republic, as well as placards with slogans in Russian: "The law on language is another Karabakh for Latvia", "We will not allow violation of the Russian population's rights", etc.